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R. D. ROBERTS ..... BUSINESS MANAGER.
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Pittsburgh Commercial.

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THE WEEKLY COMMERCIAL,
A LARGE SHEET CONTAINING ALL THE CURRENT NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS, LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE AND VALUABLE READING FOR THE FAMILY.
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Address
COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

CITY ITEMS.

Gas! Gas! Gas! Gas!

Every one present visited the Steam Dental Establishment of Dr. G. W. Spencer, No. 324 Penn street, yesterday, and the operations were performed without the slightest pain, by the use of gas. The above will be continued to-day by Dr. G. W. Spencer, Operator, and by Dr. D. Knight, Local Assistant Operator. No charge whatever for the use of the gas. Call and get the charge for extracting the teeth when artificial teeth are ordered. Beautiful sets of teeth for only $20 a set, and a assortment of over ten thousand dollars worth of gold and silver plate, which will be sold cheap. Call early to-day operator, Dr. G. The artificial human eye made to order and adjusted without the slightest pain.

Robsehire Bitters.

"There's nothing half so sweet in life
As love's young dream." And there's
Nothing equal to Robsch's Bitters for giving tone to the stomach, restoring the weak and broken down constitution.

Country Merchants

Will find full lines of bleached and brown sheetings and shirtings, unbleached muslins, ticks, and yarns at the lowest eastern prices, at Barker & Co.'s, 89 Market street.

Musical Boxes.

We have just received another invoice. Some very fine ones, accompanied with drum and bells. Dunseath & Co., 89 Fifth street.

Hasbrouck Caudy.

H. F. Vandervort corner of Smithfield and Liberty streets, is prepared to supply the genuine oyster and Orient Rock Candy, at other wholesale or retail.

Sewing Machines.

Two Howe sewing machines and two family machines in good order, for sale cheap at Wheeler & Wilson's agency, No. 37 Fifth street.

Fine Shirting Muslins

Of the best quality, 24 inch, 21 c., at Barker & Co.'s, 89 Market street.

Parvlance's Card Photographs,

Are taken in any weather, in all the most popular styles, single or groups, at 25 cents each. We guarantee satisfaction. Gallery corner Fifth and Market streets.

Cheap.

All the best makes of Prints in the newest styles, at Barker & Co.'s; also, other styles as low as 8½c, at Barker & Co.'s, 89 Market street.

Ps. Ps. Ps.

Imperium, Iron Ease and Inventors use and recommend Sawyer's Barber's Soap. Only thirty cents a cake.

The Daily Commercial

GUBERNATORIAL.

The Clinton county delegates to the Republican State Convention have been instructed to vote for Hon. J. K. Moorhead for Governor.

The York County *True Democrat*, which warmly supports the nomination of Gen. Geary for Governor, thus sums up an article in his favor: "The nomination of Gen. Geary has been placed in the best possible shape for his election. Geary is a man of unblemished character and honor. As the chairman of the first State convention held in California to organize the first Legislature of that State, as the first Governor of Nebraska Territory, of the general in the field, he has shown himself adequate to every emergency; and he may be entrusted with the highest office in the gift of the people of Pennsylvania, with the certainty that he will discharge the duties of that office in a most able and satisfactory manner. As a war leader in the coming campaign, he would draw around him, as a soldier, the soldiers of the State in a body, and whose influence is all powerful with the soldiers of the whole country. The success of his principles, his devotion to the cause of right, his fidelity to his party, and the purity and ability of his character, all combined, present the strongest claims we can select as our candidate for Governor. If nominated, he certainly will be elected; and that nomination we honestly believe we think, will be the best way of recognizing the sacrifices and services that have been made to serve the Union and the cause so dear to us all.

The Washington *Tribune and Reporter*, in an editorial on the Gubernatorial question, says:

"We have no hesitation in expressing our preference for General Moorhead. The people of our own county have special reasons to favor the nomination of General Moorhead. As a representative in Congress he has always faithfully stood by the interests of the coal companies sent on by our wool growers a year or so ago, to ask additional protection at the hands of Congress, have home ample testimony to the cordiality with which he received the delegation, as well as to the heartiness with which he seconded their efforts to obtain the legislation desired, and it would be nothing short of ingratitude to withhold from him our support in the present contest. But we prefer him upon higher than those of a merely local character for favoring the nomination of General Moorhead. He has always been a consistent and reliable friend of Pennsylvania interests. Zealously devoted to his duties, he has ever sustained a record calculated to develope the resources, and contribute to the wealth and greatness of our State, and aiding by his influence and vote every local affairs, that sound practical judgment so essential in an executive officer, it is in our opinion eminently fitting and appropriate that he should be called to the Chief Magistracy of our good old Commonwealth. With such a record, we believe that yield a cordial and zealous support to any of the other candidates, if nominated, we shall be especially gratified to see Governor Curtin or even Gen. Moorhead.

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FIRST EDITION.

12 O'CLOCK, M.

HARRISBURG.

Petitions for a General Railroad Law.

Important Railroad Legislation.

Proposed Increase of Allegheny County Judges' Salaries.

Local Bills Presented and Passed.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 7, 1866.

SENATE.—Mr. White presented a petition of citizens of the Commonwealth in favor of a general railroad law.

Mr. Bigham, a memorial of the merchants of Wood street, Pittsburgh, asking for the removal of the restrictions on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad from extending their road towards Washington and Baltimore.

Mr. Graham, eight petitions from citizens of Allegheny county, asking for restoration of the charter of the city of Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad.

Also, one from the members of the Bar of Allegheny county, praying for the increase of the salary of the Judges of said county.

Mr. Connell, from the Committee on Banks, reported as committed, an act incorporating the People's Saving Bank of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Graham read in place an act to incorporate the Birmingham Gas Company Association.

Mr. Hoge, to incorporate the Pithole and Titusville Railroad Company.

Mr. Hall, to reorganize the Pennsylvania Steel Company, and to increase its capital stock. Bill considered and passed finally.

Mr. Shoenberger, an act extending the time for the completion of the Buffalo, Bradford and Pittsburgh Railroad. Passed finally.

Mr. Graham called up the act increasing the capital stock of the Birmingham, East Birmingham and South Pittsburgh Gas Company. Passed finally. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. Waddell, as committed, an act relative to terms of court in the twenty-eighth district.

An act to enlarge the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court passed finally.

Mr. Lee, as committed, to incorporate the city of Meadville.

An act to enlarge the powers of, and to incorporate the Latrobe and Salem Railroad.

Bills in Place—Mr. Herron, a supplement to the Orphans' Asylum of Pittsburgh and Allegheny.

Mr. McKee, to allow the Commissioners and Controller of Allegheny county to pay certain moneys.

Mr. Glass, to provide for the payment of money to the Allegheny Agricultural Society.

Mr. Danks, to extend the provisions of an act relative to the board of health of the city of Pittsburgh to the boroughs and townships.

Mr. Quay, to extend the limits of the town of Perrysville, Pa.

Mr. Shrigley, to incorporate the city of Titusville. Adjourned until half past seven o'clock, to consider the resolution on reconstruction.

The Allegheny Valley Railroad Bill a Law. Judicial Appointment—Legislation Affecting Internal Improvements.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, February 7, 1866.

The bill which was to-day signed by the Governor, authorizing the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company to borrow money, is of much greater importance to the people of Pittsburgh than many persons at first glance would imagine. Under its provisions the company will raise the money to finish its road to Franklin, there connecting with the Atlantic and Great Western, thus affording another direct outlet to New York. It was passed only after much labor and perseverance of Col. Glass that this measure was so promptly got through both branches of the Legislature, and the thanks of the community is undoubtedly one of the most intelligentable gentleman connected with the House.

Colonel Wilson, who was recently beaten than those of a merely local character for favoring the nomination of General Moorhead. He has always been a consistent and reliable friend of Pennsylvania interests. Zealously devoted to his duties, he has ever sustained a record calculated to develope the resources, and contribute to the wealth and greatness of our State, and aiding by his influence and vote every local affairs, that sound practical judgment so essential in an executive officer, it is in our opinion eminently fitting and appropriate that he should be called to the Chief Magistracy of our good old Commonwealth. With such a record, we believe that yield a cordial and zealous support to any of the other candidates, if nominated, we shall be especially gratified to see Governor Curtin or even Gen. Moorhead.

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New Hampshire Democratic Convention.

Nominations—The President's Policy Indorsed.

CONCORD, N. H., February 7.—The New Hampshire Democratic State Convention was to-day inaugurated Hon. John Sinclair, of Bethlehem, for Governor; Gen. Edward H. Peirce, of Jaffrey, for Railroad Commissioner. The resolutions adopted indorse President Johnson in his endeavors to restore the Union, and recommend in Congress, and discontenance any amendments to the Constitution.

Connecticut Democratic Convention.

Candidates Nominated—The President's Restoration Policy Indorsed.

HARTFORD, CONN., February 7.—The Democratic Convention assembled here to-day. The Convention this afternoon, held for many years, James English, of New Haven, was nominated for Governor by acclamation, as was also Ephraim L. Hyde, of Hartford, for Lieutenant Governor. Mr. English addressed the Convention in a handsome speech, accepting the nomination. The resolutions adopted by the Convention indorse the restoration policy of President Johnson.

Brevet Promotions.

The Senate, in Executive session, on Monday last, confirmed a large number of brevet promotions, among which I send the following from Western Pennsylvania:

TO BE BREVET COLONELS.—Benjamin F. Hames, 11th, Pa. Vols.; M. J. Ludington, Assistant Quartermaster; J. R. Overmeyer, 11th Pa. Vols.; R. L. Orr, 81st Pa. Vols.; J. H. Penrose, 100th Pa. Vols.; Jas. Brady, 1st Pa. Light Artillery.

TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONELS.—James D. Duncan, 12th Pa.; Wm. W. Hoffman, 205th Pa.; R. W. Lyon, 102d Pa.; B. M. Morrow, 205th Pa.; John L. Ritchie, 200th Pa.

TO BE MAJORS.—W. C. Armor, 28th Pa.; R. Boone, 205th Pa.; S. C. F. Crawford, 13th Pa.; A. C. Douglass, 123th Pa.; A. C. Happer, 11th Pa.; S. Kingsbury, 155th Pa.; G. B. McClellan, 153d Pa., J. A. McAhen, 205th Pa.; G. F. Morgan, 155th Pa.; H. H. Oliphant, 16th Pa. Cavalry; S. D. Parsons, 61st Pa.; E. King, 11th Pa.; C. A. Sherman, 11th Pa.; J. C. Sample, 139th Pa.; W. A. F. Stockton, 140th Pa.

There were also a number whose names are not yet given of 1st Lieutenants brevetted Captains and 2d Lieutenants brevetted 1st Lieutenants, and many of all grades not yet acted on.

OIL INTELLIGENCE.

Oil Strike Near Port Homer, O.

Active Oil Operations in Jefferson County, Ohio.

The Mineral Wealth of that Region.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

PORT HOMER, OHIO, February 6, 1866.

The Jefferson Petroleum and Mining Company have struck oil on Spiller's Run, at a depth of 785 feet. It has the appearance of interesting oil, and is considered a first class well by those that pretend to be posted in oil matters. The Company are now getting in the tubing, and will be ready to pump in a few days. I will note progress and inform you of affairs as fast as developments are made.

It would astonish a native of some of the best oil regions to see the "dear people" wakeing up here. Everybody knows there was no "fie" on the "run;" reckon we ought to know; lived there all our lives. Nevertheless, the greasy fluid would come to light regardless of old fogy prognostications. Well, land has risen slightly, say from $15 to $3,000 per acre, and everybody and his cousin can now see this is the oil region of Ohio.

The Company organized recently on Yellow Creek, on land belonging to the Ohio and Pennsylvania Coal Company, are now boring.

The "strike" on Brock House Run is supposed by those best read up in oil matters to be from fifteen to twenty barrels; not yet tubed. This run will be well tested the coming season. Several companies are being organized to develop the hidden mystery.

The Town Fork Company are organized and ready to operate on Town Fork as soon as we are blessed with a thaw.

Several other companies are organizing, but not yet quoted in "oil circles." Will keep you posted as fast as they mature.

Never since the oil fever first broke out have the "dear people" been so perfectly beside themselves. Every man with a few square rods of "hill and dale" is a millionaire—in expectation. Every available piece of "terra firma" on Yellow Creek is being leased, and parties leasing scarce more at once. Engine builders will see the necessity of enlarging their facilities for supplying this new *Oil-dorado* with the means of producing the gleamings.

Now, Mr. COMMERCIAL, dont advise any one to come down here to enter the arena. There is no chance for small fry at this locality, because every man has dropped his legitimate business, and has become an "oil man."

Yours, SALINA.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, Ohio, February 7.

The "oil fever" has broken out in a most violent form, on Will's creek, about three miles from this place, and "all the powers of mud combined" seem to be entirely inert in arresting its progress. Five years ago boring for oil was commenced on Will's creek, about three-fourths of a mile from the Ohio river, on a farm owned by James Long, and when the drill had penetrated to the depth of two hundred and forty feet, and then abandoned on account of the war. A company has recently been formed, an engine purchased, and the contract let to put the well down to the depth of one thousand feet or more, unless oil is sooner obtained. There has been a plentiful supply of gas from the well which will readily ignite and burn steadily, as it has done for weeks together. All the parties interested are quite sanguine of success.

Coal is attracting much attention on the same creek, and is obtained by sinking shafts, the quality for gas or other purposes is unsurpassed by any coal in this section of the country. There is a shaft now being sunk on the McKinley farm, from which enough can be supplied in about six weeks from the present time. A meeting of the owners of land further up the creek, was held yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of consolidating their farms to about one thousand acres, and then offer the whole for sale in a body, or to sell and lease only. Being cut up in different veins, and at irregular distances apart. The coal is found from 40 feet to 100 feet from the surface, and is not considered valuable, being but three feet thick, and very hard. The next vein is about sixty feet thick, and is said to be nearly six feet thick, and is an excellent article. Another vein is found twenty-five feet lower down. The coal is bituminous and free from sulphur, tenderness, and of superior quality. Still lower down is another vein of coal, but the only reason that it is said it can be used for any purpose, even in working iron, and without coaking. It is really surprising that the coal interests of this vicinity has not attracted attention long ago.

A flouring mill is much needed in this neighborhood, for, strange as it may appear, there is no such institution within 15 miles in any direction. There is a splendid chance for a mill on Will's creek, not one mile from the Ohio river, by which to ship, and plenty of water to run a mill the year round. YOURS,

CONFEDERATE BONDS IN ENGLAND.

CURIOUS DISCLOSURES.

The holders of Confederate bonds in England appear to be hopeful of getting their money from the United States Treasury, or from the South as a State, in some way. They recently held an adjourned meeting in London to receive the report of the Committee, which decided that the bondholders should press their claims, and appointed a committee of five gentlemen, if they might recover to pay the expenses of collection. Some curious disclosures were made at the meeting, which illustrate the old proverb about the beneficial results to honest persons and certain classes of knaves. Statements were made showing that the rebel agents in Europe must have made a nice thing out of the victimized English bond-holders. It was said that Erlanger, of Paris, had received $1,000,000 and refused no less than two and a half millions of dollars for his zeal in circulating the bonds, and it was mildly suggested that he should be required to disgorge and share the pittance. It also appears that the bond-holders' committee are in a curious quandary respecting the origin of the loan. Messrs. Emile Erlanger and Co. decline to furnish any information, and Messrs. Schroder & Co., of London, who issued the bonds at 90, say that they had only performed the part of special committee was appointed to investigate the affairs of the Confederacy. The disclosures may be looked for as likely to unmask the movements of the Confederate agents in England and their supporters.

A statement was made which shows that the Confederates in England fared much better than their principals upon this side of the Atlantic. It appears that they all received full pay down to September last, and there is a suspicion that some funds yet remain on hand, which the bondholders stoutly think should be divided among them. Thus we find that six months after the arrest of Jeff. Davis, and while President Johnson was sternly holding the Confederate leaders on an anxious seat, and administering to them forgiveness in exchange for oaths, the more lucky foreign sympathizers were pocketing their pay just the same as if Richmond had never been captured.

Letter from Mr. James McHenry.

THE ATLANTIC AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICES, NO. 5 WESTMINSTER CHAMBERS, VICTORIA STREET, WESTMINSTER, S. W., LONDON, January 26, 1866.

Dear Mr. Dougherty:—I see that the opponents of the Atlantic and Great Western are endeavoring to make a diversion in favor of the Pennsylvania Central by the old cry of "British capital," which, I fancy, has been long since played out.

Sir Morton Peto was in the United States, with other friends, as my guest, and is in no manner responsible for my movements, social or financial. On the contrary, I am responsible for all of his.

I intend to make the influence and operations of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway Company, between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, connecting these cities by an unbroken communication with Chicago, Cleveland, Buffalo, St. Louis, Cincinnati, and an fully prepared to meet any opposition fairly conducted.

My views of the future of railways and their management are very different from most of the railway people I am acquainted with.

I know there is traffic for double or treble the existing mileage. I know my lines will be very profitable, and I am sure that the Pennsylvania Central and Philadelphia and Erie will, at the same time, be more prosperous than ever. Business begets business, and even now the dormant traffic of the great West is tenfold more active.

Give the Western States a sure, a speedy, and cheap transit at all seasons for their produce, and the present prospects of the whole country will be paled by the future.

For nearly fifty years my family have been not obscure residents of Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and I have now investments in Pennsylvania exceeding those of any other single proprietor.

I will, said, therefore, to no man in pride of the State, and am determined to make my position useful to it, and honorable and profitable to myself. I have the means of spending thirty or forty millions of foreign capital in and about Pennsylvania without doing Pennsylvania any harm. I regard the policy of not spending as much more to open up the western and central portions of the State as the cost of railway communication which, in extent, construction and management of its traffic in goods and passengers, shall be unequalled in the world.

Vast interests, with their usual selfishness, may not wish to be disturbed, but they will find in the long run that they are more frightened than hurt; that they must yield in some way for the greater interests of the whole State; that Pennsylvania does not belong to any corporation, and that I shall succeed in my plans.

I am, dear Mr. Dougherty, most faithfully yours,

Daniel Dougherty, Esq., Philadelphia.

Plum Pudding Feast.—A few days ago says an English paper, nearly 1000 persons had a "grand plum pudding feast," at Anghton, a village a few miles from Manchester. The feast held every twenty-one years, and it originated at the commencement of the present century in this way: A firm carrying on the business of basket and hamper making at Anghton purchased a boiler six feet long, two feet broad, and two feet deep. The boiler attracted considerable attention in a village consisting of only ten houses, and a rough but practical joker in that place, possessing strong gastronomic proclivities, said it would boil a rare pudding. The owners, being of the same opinion, agreed to the joke, and caused a most Titanic plum pudding to be made in the boiler, and then distributed it amongst their friends and neighbors, time this plum pudding feast has been kept up by the inhabitants every twenty-one years. At the feast which has just taken place one plum pudding of the modest weight of three hundred pounds and three weighing about seventy pounds each were placed upon the tables, and consumed, as report says, "in about three hours." After this great "slaughter" of pudding, the company, about 1000 in number, enjoyed themselves in a variety of old English games, sports, &c., which it is to be hoped prevented the serious indigestion which might be expected.

SCENES OF HORROR.

The Details of the Loss of the Australian Steamship London.

Heartrending Incidents of Heroism and Suffering—Two Hundred Doomed Beings Waiting for Death—Last Hours of G. V. Brooke, the Actor—Noble Conduct of the Captain—He Refuses to Save Himself and Goes Down With the Ship—The Passengers Shooting Themselves to Avoid Drowning—Marvellous Escape of the Survivors, &c., &c.

The wreck of the Australian emigrant ship London, with the loss of over two hundred lives, has already been recorded. The English papers received by the Africa furnish details of the catastrophe, excelling in horror and interest anything of the kind that has occurred in Europe since the loss of the Royal Charter.

HEROISM OF THE CAPTAIN.

It was not till four A. M. on Wednesday, the 10th inst., that Captain Martin resolved to put back to Plymouth, the London being then some two hundred miles southwest of Land's End. But it seems to have been already too late. At half-past ten on Wednesday night a tremendous sea swept the ship, broke into the engine room and put out the fires. This was the night on which the thirty vessels were wrecked at once in Torbay. All the passengers of the London worked at the pumps, while the gale became a hurricane, and the ship was losing all control. At length, at ten A. M. on Thursday, Captain Martin called his passengers together and told them that they must prepare for the worst. The ship had already sunk as low as her main chains. One boat was lowered and instantly swamped, but the five men in her were rescued on board the ship. One attempt was made to launch the other boats; but the passengers gathered into the chief cabin, and having been calmly assured by Captain Martin that there was no hope left, they quietly joined with a clergyman in prayer. There was no wild and sudden despair, no screaming, no rushing to the boats; there was the agony of sudden partings, and of everlasting separations of parent and child, and husband and wife; but, with the example of Captain Martin before them, all these doomed men and women were composed, and all resigned, while the children wondered and asked why their fathers and mothers looked so sad. Captain Martin remained at his station on the poop, once or twice only going forward, and once or twice into the saloon to cheer up the women and the passengers. At two P. M., the few men who were detailed to the pumps found the case hopeless, and launched her clear of the ship. These men called to the Captain to come with them, but with the same kind steadfast English seaman declined, saying: "No, I will go down with the passengers, but I would have you tell my wife before I am poured into the steamer through her cabin windows, and, when the boat left the sea was clear of the ship, St. Catherine's Point, and the cornses of drowned women and children were floating over the deck.

THE ESCAPE OF ANOTHER.

When the men were all in the boat, one of the seamen cried, "There may still be room; fetch a lady." Mr. Wilson then sprang over a portion of the deck in search of a lady he knew, but not one could be found, and as every moment was precious, he said to a young lady, "Will you go?" She did not refuse; therefore Mr. Wilson lifted her and her child in his arms; but when she looked over the rails and saw the distance which she must spring, she said in despair, "I cannot jump." Then there was no time for persuasion or parley, and Mr. Wilson was obliged to drop the girl and jump into the boat, which he reached in safety. The ship was being washed over to the boat, towards which it lunged heavily.

THE LAST MINUTES OF THE CAPTAIN.

The Captain, who was walking calmly up and down the poop, had refused to leave his ship, but just before the boat put off he had the consideration and presence of mind to give those in the boat some papers, telling them to steer for the nearest port to Brest, which was correct. Before the boat could be got off it was in great danger of being swamped by the ship, but by great skill was rapidly settling beneath the water. The swirl of water round the stern that presently sucked under the ship. The prevailing motion appears to be, not only among the public, but those who witnessed the tragedy, that it was unintentional on his part, or accident.

A THOUSAND GUINEAS FOR A LIFE.

At this moment those in the boat were piteously called upon by a lady about twenty-three years of age, who, with a face which was, it is stated, livid with horror, shrieked out an offer of "a thousand guineas if you'll take me in." That in that moment a hundred millions of money would have been accounted valueless, and to return must have resulted in destruction to all. One of the seamen hesitated that when the boat was pushed off, and the passengers at the oars bent their backs to the speed," the men resolved that no danger must be allowed to accrue to them from the drowning lady, and that as soon as they drew their knives with a determination of cutting off the hands of those who might leap from the ship and endeavor to climb to the boat's gunwales. It is also stated that long before this, when it was first made known that the vessel must go down, a passenger brought on deck a carpet bag, and that on his doing so the captain gave a short unbecoming laugh, and then called as one of the passengers expressed it, "at the preposterous idea of a man's thinking at such a time of his property."

THE LAST GLIMPSE OF THE DOOMED.

Two passengers were seen with lifebelts, but probably none were alive when they came to the surface. The spectacle was only to be seen, for in the din of the tempest no cry from the sinking multitude could be heard, and soon not a vestige was visible. As the ship sunk it was seen that all on deck were driven forward, not by water, but by a tremendous and overpowering rush of air from below, which, as it escaped through the deck as well as the hatches, impelled all on deck forward with violence, and their dreadful struggle must have been soon ended. It was remarked that the third officer, who was named Angel, stood to the last

The Daily Commercial

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1866.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

Communications on matters of public interest is solicited and will be thankfully received from our friends in all parts of the country. Information obtained by reliable correspondence. More especially whatever relates to the trade and commerce of the land and reliable statistical intelligence in general, will be acceptable and valuable to us. Letters must be addressed to the Editorial department, invariably and unexceptionally. To secure attention, communications should be short and strictly editorial, and should be as promptly as possible.

Letters connected with the business department of the Commercial or printing office should be addressed to the Publishers, Messrs. Bowen, Mellor & Co. Communications designed for the paper should be addressed to the Editor.

PITTSBURGH AND HER INTERESTS.

Thirty or forty years ago, when Pittsburgh was confined to the space below Wayne street, and between the foot of Grant's hill and the rivers—when Allegheny town, as it was then called, seemed a long way "over the river," and consisted chiefly of a few straggling houses, General Neamisson's gardens, Hogback hill and Yoglt's orchard,—when "Bayardstown," now the Fifth Ward, was comprised of a few slaughter houses, a mile "out on the pike,"—when the now beautiful suburb, East Liberty, was made up of "Bightler's tavern," and when Sharpsburg and the other flourishing municipal corporations, now essential parts of our great manufacturing community, were yet unborn—crude notions as to what her interests required were natural. Many of the opinions and the controversies to which they gave rise, in the light of present experience, strike most of those who remember them as very ridiculous. There were vigorous controversies about the location of the Court House, the Penitentiary, the Water Works,—and even a little eight by ten market house in Bayardstown was most actively opposed by those who thought they saw in the innovation a dangerous blow at the business prosperity in which the old "Diamond" had so long rejoiced. Pittsburgh's most dangerous and dreaded rival outside of the county was "little Wheeling," which boasted in its magniloquent rivalry of *"forty wagons a day,"* loaded with wealth of goods from the Eastern cities for distribution to the interior.

When the Pennsylvania canal came to be made, a great excitement arose as to where it should be located hereabouts. Allegheny seemed to be the proper terminus of the canal, and Pittsburgh could only see in such an event, the utter and irretrievable destruction of her business for all time to come! When the Pennsylvania and the Fort Wayne railroads were approaching a completion another great controversy arose to prevent the former from reaching the head of the Ohio, and each from connecting with the other. The newspapers were plied with communications on the subject, and many people were confident in their predictions of the commercial ruin which would be induced by the dangerous connections. Pittsburgh, it was said, would become but a way station, through which the trade and travel, from east to west, would rush on untold. The trains would only stop long enough for the conductors to cry out "Passengers for Philadelphia change cars." The draymen who expected to suffer most were determined to maintain their means of living which was about to be taken away from them, "peaceably if they could, forcibly if they must." Who among us now will not say that our people were mistaken in their anticipations of disaster from the measures they opposed? And who now desires that the railroads should have a gap between their respective termini, to be filled up by means of carts and drays? Possibly the owner of some saloon or town lots, who would be profited by such a policy, surely no one else.

The people of Pittsburgh have learned much from the past, and now know what their real interests require. When a great public improvement is proposed, her business men are capable of taking just and comprehensive views of its utility. If an individual property-holder, railroad corporation or stockholder finds that his interests are not in accord with those of the general public, he must present sound reasons if he expects to convert public opinion to his views. The attempt to win by striving to arouse dead issues and exploded notions and prejudices is vain. The bugbear of railroads passing north or south of Pittsburgh for the purpose of compassing their ruin has no longer any terrors for the business man. They know that if the Pennsylvania railroad should push its Blairsville branch through Freeport and Butler to Newcastle and on to Cleveland, every township the line develops, and every town it builds up, would bring an increase of business and wealth to Pittsburgh. They know that if the Atlantic and Great Western Road should be made on the proposed route through Clarion and Jefferson counties, we would derive a full share of the benefit from the development of those hitherto neglected regions, and that the gap of thirty miles between Brookville and the Allegheny river, would soon be filled up and give us a direct connection with them, and a second good route to Philadelphia. They know that *any* Railroad running in any direction within forty or fifty miles of the city will contribute to her prosperity through the connecting lines it must cross,—and especially do they know that an extension of the Mahoning road *via* the Valley of Pine creek is of the utmost importance to her interests, and cannot help having a terminus substantially in the city. As an outlet for Pittsburgh manufactures to the lakes and to the great West, the Mahoning road would be in no respect inferior to the Fort Wayne and its branch, the Pittsburgh and Cleveland road. It would cross the Pittsburgh and Erie road, and thus reach the lake and the Lake Shore roads at Erie and Ashtabula, as well as Cleveland. It connects with the Atlantic and Great Western road at a favorable point, and by that line will reach Chicago, St. Louis, and all parts of the Western States. Such a line is absolutely essential to the future progress of the city, and the business to sustain it is now in actual existence and seriously suffering for the lack of the facilities it would afford. As stated in the letter of the business men to Governor Tod, it has been truthfully stated that the manufacturing interests have suffered for the last three or four years for want of railroad facilities to reach the western markets with their products, and we are assured that some have been actually deterred from the erection of extensive works because they could not depend on the limited capacity of the existing road for supplies of raw material from Cleveland. It is asserted by those who know, that if the extension of the Mahoning road to this city were now commenced, the number of blast furnaces in this vicinity to be supplied with ore from Cleveland, would be doubled by the time it could be completed. Not only so, but the valties of the Youghiogheny and lower Monongahela would become an iron region, tributary to Pittsburgh, which would be limited in the extent of its production only by the capacity of the proposed road and the Connellsville road to supply the rich ores of Lake Superior to the superior coal of those valleys.

We do not underestimate the benefits and importance of the Fort Wayne and Cleveland roads. Much of the prosperity of our city is due to them—but the benefits have been mutual—for in like measure the prosperity of the roads is due to the business of Pittsburgh. All the praiseworthy efforts of the active managers of the Fort Wayne and Chicago Company to keep their road up to the demands upon its capacity, have failed to afford the facilities required. Pittsburgh, within a few years, has doubled the number of her iron mills, and the same may be truthfully said of nearly every branch of her manufactures and business of every kind. The increase of local business, added to the vast growth of that from the West, has always been greater than the ability of the roads satisfactorily to manage; and it is evident that their ability to transport will soon reach—if it has not already reached—the maximum. Yet the great West still moves on with giant strides. The grand march in prosperity and greatness of the broad States lying beyond Ohio, and the still broader Territories between those States and the Rocky Mountains, cannot be checked or limited by the capacity of any single existing road. New avenues will be found by which to reach the seaboard. But the ability of Pittsburgh to share in that prosperity and similate that growth will be thus limited, unless other avenues of intercommunication are opened by us or for us. The question is simply, shall Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania keep pace with the general progress, and share, as heretofore, in the increasing greatness of the West, or must we consider our cities and State *finished*, and stolidly permit capital and enterprise to seek other localities and States better supplied with railroad facilities?

We cannot too strongly urge upon our Senators and Representatives in the Legislature to use their best endeavors to secure for the Mahoning road whatever legislation may be required to induce its early construction.

The other day, the Pittsburgh *Gazette* asserted and undertook to show, that "the Commercial, backed by the iron manufacturers," was in league with the Free Traders. Having finished that topic to its satisfaction, it next undertakes to show that the Commercial is equally unsound on the suffrage question. As we did not deem it worth while to attempt to defend ourselves against the charge of Free Trade, we shall not trouble ourselves with the equally reasonable one brought against us from the same source on the suffrage question. If we supposed that there was a single reader of ours, save, perhaps, the editor of the *Gazette*, who really does not know that our course has been persistently for a uniform rule of suffrage based on intelligence, fixed in the Constitution, if possible, we might perhaps be induced to go over the ground with our neighbor. Not only have we, from the beginning, stood on this principle, but we have never lost sight of the local application of principles and ideas as they have from time to time been brought forward in Congress. We have never seen any reason for enfranchising the Southern negro—without it should appear that his very freedom vitally depended on it—while the educated, tax paying Northern negro remained disfranchised. This idea we have not failed to repeat from time to time, and we conceive it to be no answer that in this or some other State the Constitution cannot be opened for two or three years yet. The principle is a present one, whether the constitution can be opened in one or twenty years yet.

If our position regarding suffrage does not challenge the approval of our cotemporary, we have only to hope, that as it pursues its investigation of the subject, and gains more light, it will be found coming to more reasonable conclusions.

AMERICAN AND FOREIGN LABOR.

We do not believe in any irrepressible conflict between labor and capital. They have, it is true, had collisions with each other, but it has been always through bad management, and always with damage to both and benefit to neither. The normal relation between them is that of mutual dependence and friendship. Systems of political economy or practical enterprises that ignore this fact, or go counter to it, must involve injurious consequences. This might be inferred from the reason of the thing, but facts are plain and plenty enough to convince any observer. There have generally been found in the world demagogues enough to get up feuds between labor and capital for their own advantage, and their pernicious sentiments have gained in some minds, perhaps superior to ther own, a lodgment and influence which is often highly injurious to the interests both of labor and capital.

But although there is no ground of conflict between labor and capital, except in the imaginations of these demagogues who have no fondness for work and no possession of capital save brass, there is a conflict between labor and labor. Under one set of conditions, labor may come in direct and fatal antagonism to labor of the same kind under different conditions. Slave labor has been the antagonistic of free in our country; foreign is now the competitor with domestic. We have endeavored to keep this idea before the readers of the Commercial, and the following facts and statements will show them still further how this contest stands:

"By official returns of the New York Custom-house the imports there of that article in five months, ending November 30th, were $115,589,-279 *nearly double of the same time last year.*

"By the statements of a respectable Liverpool firm, (Messrs. Guion & Co.,) there were exported from that port to this country, in November, 1865, 33,690 packages of goods, of which 22,285 were British; and for six months ending in December last, the exports to this country were 193,993 packages—or *seventy per cent. more than in any similar period since 1860.* And the *England's Iron Trading Circular* speaks of the demand for iron from this country as of 'an extraordinary character,' and with no prospect of subsiding at present."

The question between free and slave labor has been fought out, for that was the central though not the direct question of the war. The gist of it was, whether freedom and the toil of freemen should be dishonored by a perpetual competition with slaves, all possible political advantages being thrown into the scale with slavery. But freedom was triumphant. And now in another form the conflict has to be urged. Foreign labor takes the field promptly, and opens the campaign with great vigor. On the week ending February 3d, it threw into our markets its foreign products to the amount of $7,222,573, a larger amount than at any previous period of the same length. Thus far, as it was in the earlier stages of the late rebellion, the prestige of success seems to be with the enemy. Thus far too, as in the late rebellion, the enemy has friends within our lines employing their influence against the true and permanent interests of American labor. Nor is it without avail. Overloaded markets and still increasing imports, cause the directors and employers of American labor to pause. The competition makes, as its first point, the reduction of wages here, but that only as connected with a further and easily foreseen consequence, to wit, the suspension of work. The aim of foreign competition is not to reduce wages here to its own level, which would be fatal to the foreign interest, but knowing that to be impossible, through the independence of our laborers, it seeks the stoppage of work by throwing into our market a superfluous supply of its own fabrics, the products of cheap labor, and thus shutting out the products of better paid American industry.

The logical effect anticipated is just what we see illustrated before our eyes, viz: not a conflict between labor and capital, but American labor worsted in the conflict with foreign labor, and capital sharing with it the loss which neither has the power to escape. That there is in this avalanche of foreign manufactures something of the nature of an assault on our own, is evident from the perilous risks run in pursuing it. The English finances are exposed to transient pressure by the enormous consignments that are made to this country without immediate returns. Future advantages must be expected to compensate for present inconveniences. At present the advantages on their side seem to promise a success equal to their expectations. And until our labor be in some way secured from the unequal competition, it will be depressed and dishonored as it has been for many years by the political encroachments made on it for the interest of slavery. With such protection, capital and labor can go hand in hand together, to mutual profit and to the enriching of the country. Without it, labor must be depressed, not by capital which will be depressed with it, but by the competition of foreign labor and for the increase of foreign capital.

OUR IDLE SHIPPING.

Our merchant marine was nearly driven from the seas, during the war, by rebel cruisers. Since the peace, it is left in comparative idleness by the competition of foreign vessels. This results directly from the unnatural condition of affairs among us, especially in relation to prices. Foreign vessels carry the freight even from our own ports, because they carry it cheaper than our own vessels can. And the reason why our vessels cannot carry it as cheaply as others is, that it costs so much more to build them. In Boston the cost of building in a first class manner is $110 per ton. Before the war it was $60 per ton. The increased price of materials and labor is proportionate to this difference. But how is it in Quebec? There ships are built in a similar manner at $36 per ton, in gold, and $51 in *currency*. That means our currency of course, as the discount from gold shows. Why then, should there be such a difference between Boston and Quebec? Whatever the reason, the fact is so. On a ship of 1,000 tons the difference of cost, in currency would be $59,000. Or in other words, the Boston built vessel would cost more than double the sum that the Quebec vessel cost. The manning and all the appointments for a voyage would be at the same rate, in excess. It is useless, therefore, to suppose that with more than double the investment, the Yankee owner can compete with the English. And, as it will hardly be more profitable to let his vessel lie idle in port, the Yankee will dispose of his unlucky venture as well as he can, and quit the business. And what is wisdom in one is wisdom in others similarly situated; so that Yankee ships bid fair to be more thoroughly swept from the main by British competitors than they were by Anglo-rebel-corsairs.

And what is true of shipping is equally true of everything else that is exposed to the competition of cheap foreign labor. It is evident that the cause of the difficulty does not lie in the currency. There is nothing in carrying the greenback from Boston to Quebec, to *increase* its value, especially at so rapid a rate as to make it more than twice as valuable at the latter place. The difficulty lies in another direction altogether. The rectifying of it is not so easy as its discovery. And in this article, we shall not attempt to do either. We only bespeak for the above facts, and the little we have said on them the serious consideration of business men, in connection with thoughts of the tendency of this condition of things in the future.

TESTING.

If a thing is known to be sound, and in every respect "all right," the application of a test is, of course, superfluous. Still, if any one wishes to apply it, there could be no reasonable objection, and certainly no fear, since the result could not but be satisfactory. A strong objection to a test indicates either a knowledge or a suspicion of some defect, that would be discovered by the application. Our Southern friends have been unnecessarily exercised about the test oath and other probationary measures employed to discriminate between friends and enemies in the reconstruction process. We have no difficulty in accounting for this opposition to the test oath. On the general principle lucidly set forth in the distich,

"None ever felt the halter draw,
With good opinion of the law,"

we can readily see how a large proportion of the Southern politicians should be particularly dissatisfied with this measure, which at once brings to painful remembrance the failure of their ambitious projects in the Confederacy, and shuts them out from all political hopes in the Union.

But the testing process has not been severe. In trying a piece of machinery, a water pipe, or a cannon, it is subjected to a strain much heavier than it will be exposed to by its ordinary use. Standing this, it is deemed competent to all the purposes which it is intended to serve. In the South, since the war, the pressure has been very gentle, and yet the result is by no means cheering. If it cannot meet so moderate an expectation—such appears to be the judgment of the nation—let it be remanded to a further probation. That the people of the Southern States, or even their mad politicians, really affect to badger the United States Government and the loyal people into a toleration of their mild conduct, we do not imagine. We take their course to be dictated by unthinking passions. It is the fretting of conscious impotence, and will effect nothing in the direction of its desires.

Who Pays the Rent?—If a house, store or shop rent this year for fifty per cent. more than it did last, who pays the rent? The occupant, of course. But does he submit to a reduction of the profits of his business to that extent? Not likely; he lays a larger price on his work, or his commodities, or his services. The increase of the rent, therefore, is distributed among the customers of the tenant. This seems to be a sufficient reason for high prices, which we are accustomed, in parrot phrases, to ascribe to the currency. And what is true of rent is equally so of other things. If one has to pay more for anything connected with his business or his subsistence, he must charge more for his labor or his goods. Thus the circle of charges is completed on a high scale all round. And thus, looking in one direction, the illusion presents itself that all are accumulating gains at a fine rate; while, looking in the opposite direction, the receipts appear running out rapidly and flowing down a stream in the shape of expenses. In the line of trade, then, it does not appear that high prices of rent or of other things make people the richer or the poorer. On some classes, only, does the condition prove oppressive, while it proves advantageous likewise to a few. On the whole, however, a lower scale would be better for weak imaginations and no worse for slender purses.

Lobbying Bills Through the Legislature.—The recent publication of the developments in the Witte-Northrop case, in which $25,000 was obtained by these parties to secure the passage through the Pennsylvania Legislature of a bill in itself both just and necessary, has prompted an investigation of legislative bribery and corruption. The result is an exposure of the manner in which the system of lobby-blackmailing is conducted. After securing a lobby agent, whose duty it is to bribe or bore a member into voting for a bill, the *modus operandi* is presented in manuscript, and in its shape referred to a committee. How the bill is manipulated in committee the public is not permitted to know, but the lobby agent may. The bill is reported in manuscript, and either passed or defeated, without an opportunity being offered to examine its provisions. Herein, it is alleged, is the great cause of injurious legislation. The public has no opportunity to discuss the bill, there being but one manuscript copy, and all they know of it is its title. It is wisely suggested that every bill, before presentation, be printed, and copies furnished the members of the Legislature and the public press located in the communities interested in the proposed legislation. This would effectually put an end to a species of special legislation that brings discredit on the Legislature as well as injury to communities.

Soldiers in Want.—In New York city, it is said, quite a number of soldiers are in a destitute condition, and an appeal is made to the charitable in their behalf. A benevolent institution at the Five Points has been issuing subsistence to the extent of a thousand meals per day to unfortunate men of this class. They are mostly men who have been sick, or wounded, or who have been robbed or cheated of the money that they had. Out of such a great army as has been disbanded, it is not surprising that there should be many enfeebled men, helpless, discouraged and poor, nor that a large number of these should be collected in a large city like New York. There is, of course, diversity of character among soldiers as well as other people, and, doubtless, there are some shiftless and bad ones, some who have no energy and no self respect. They cannot all be treated alike, but none should be neglected or allowed to suffer from want. Probably most of these referred to may be men broken in body and mind by the hardships of soldier life and by the horrors of Southern prisons. Let the hand of kindness be extended to them.

At some of the most prominent points in the West, particularly where waterpower is to be had, woolen factories are being established. At the same time the enemy is at work throughout all that region organizing Free Trade Leagues, whose efforts, if successful, would not only prevent new factories, but drive out of existance the old ones.

Trial of Jeff. Davis.—The suggestion that the convocation of leading generals in Washington had reference to the trial of Davis, appears not to have been well grounded. General Sherman has returned to his post, and it seems to be understood that the meeting related solely to the military affairs of the country.

Baltimore Commercial Enterprise.

The commercial interests of Baltimore in common with all the business relations seem marked by a new impetus since the war. A new line of steamers have made Baltimore the centre from which to control the Atlantic coastwise trade, and the old established companies are extending their arrangements. The old Commercial Steamboat Company have, during the past week, dispatched, heavily freighted, four vessels for the ports of New York and Charleston, South Carolina, and they are now negotiating for the purchase of new ocean steamers of the first-class, to be added to their Charleston line. The steamer Falcon is being repaired and fitted up as a first-class passenger vessel to run in the New York line. The merchants of Baltimore are extending the most cordial support to the company. It is the intention of the company, in connection with their New York line, to make four trips a week, and one trip a week to Charleston. Their intention is to extend the line to New Orleans and the intermediate ports at the earliest day possible. Business seems increasing so rapidly that other lines are spoken of in order to accommodate the wants of trade.

Mr. A. T. Stewart.—Whoever read the newspapers must have observed the disposition of a good many papers to insinuate that notwithstanding the proceedings which this gentleman has felt called upon to resort to to vindicate his honor and virtue, he is not disposed to push things as some people, under a sense injury would do. Some journals are of the opinion that he has done the public great service in bringing the scandal mongers to justice, while others think that "virtue is its own reward," and that Mr. Stdwart is too easily satisfied after he has had his defamers arrested. We perceive that one of them proposes not to retract, but to go to trial.

Secash at Bethany College.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

"We have scotched the snake, not killed it" The vindictive hatred of freedom and freemen still lurks in the hearts of our "erring brethren," who are so anxious to be "reconstructed," and to have the privileges of making laws for loyal men. This is demonstrated by the favorable election of disloyal men to office, and by the frequent assassination of Union men throughout the South. Those who, without remorse, starved our soldiers at Anderson ville and Belle Isle, are still actuated by the same fiendish spirit. We had an exhibition of this in Bethany a few nights ago. A considerable number of ex-Confederate soldiers were in attendance at college. The unflinching loyalty of the "Pan Handle," the expressed determination of the Faculty, and the restraining influence of loyal fellow students, held them in check; but when Gen. T. M. Harris, odious from his well earned star, ventured to deliver an address in favor of the intellectual elevation of the negro, their chivalric sonis could endure no more. They determined to express their sentiments to the General, and for potent reasons they chose the night. All who heard him slept. Accordingly, at the hour of midnight, having surrounded the residence of Major Adams, the General Harris was lodging, and having given three cheers for Jeff. Davis, and having groaned for Horace, they proceeded to serenade him by beating on "oyster cans and old tin pans." The Union students hearing the din, sprung from their couches and rushed to the rescue. The chivalry (*thirty*) took leg ball, but about a score of the ill-footed gentry were identified.

The Union boys called an indignation meeting, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour. Resolutions were adopted, and a committee was appointed to express to the General the sentiments of the loyal students. The committee called on him next morning, and the General replied to their communication as follows:

"I wish the Faculty and the community to know that *personally* I care nothing for it. It insults offered me last night; but, as expressive of a rebellious vindictive spirit, we cannot help regarding the matter as a serious affair. Personally, I feel honored. When the praise of Aristides was in the mouth of the Athenians he exclaimed, 'What folly have I committed that you praise me?' I would be dishonored if I were not praised now. As the gravil was in them, I am glad they have shown it. If they have not been pounded enough they can say so, and we will pound them more."

I will add that the Faculty, true to their principles, dismissed the students who exhibited the insult, with the exception of a few who were dupes. Among those dismissed were three Northern copperheads. Snakes love their own kind, just as birds of the same feather. The secession snake can't prosper in the latitude of Bethany. Pan Handle.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

The United States Quartermaster's Department has realized over nine thousand dollars from the sale of Government buildings at Annapolis, Md.

Accounts of the progress of operations in the construction of the Russo-American telegraph via Behring Straits, state that the line is well advanced on both the American and Asiatic sides of the Pacific Ocean, and soundings which have been made in the Straits show excellent bottom on which to lay the submarine cable. Russian officials are giving every possible assistance, and Col. Bulkley is sanguine of the early completion of telegraphic communication by this route between New York and all important points in Europe and Asia.

An immense hotel is to be erected in Boston, on the site of the piana forte manufactory of Hallett, Davis & Co., and also embracing the estate of General H. Davis, and others, which will cover an acre and a half of ground and be twice as large as the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York. There will be one thousand rooms, all of which are to be magnificently furnished. It will be built of white marble, at a cost of $1,000,000.

The Secretary of the Treasury contemplates having the waste notes and securities, that are now destroyed by burning, converted into pulp for paper stock. The quantity destroyed in the last fiscal year was about thirty tons, and in the present year it is estimated that this sort of waste will amount to as much as forty tons. It has been suggested that out of that stock, which would have to be reduced to pulp in the Treasury, paper and envelopes could be manufactured for Government use. The value of envelopes now required in the Treasury, is about ten thousand dollars per year.

By the annual report of the Philadelphia Board of Trade, it appears that one of the anthracite coal fields has fallen short half a million of tons, yet the production of the state has reached an excess of 1,301,331 tons over that of the previous year. The figures are 14,002,725 tons, against 12,698,412 tons in 1864, worth fully seven dollars per ton within the limits of the State. The production of pig iron for the past twelve months is valued at $30,807,797, and pig iron at $2,966,500. But of the pig iron, fully one-half has been manufactured into a great work at least $80 per ton, or $30 per ton on 350,000 tons, valued at $10,500,000. All supposed that all the banks of Philadelphia there are on deposit only $5,000,000, while in banks, brokers and insurances of New York there are at least $40,000,000. The rate of interest in Pennsylvania is declared to operate against every branch of our industry and our commerce.

About two hundred representatives of the banks and insurance offices of New York have presented claims amounting to over $1,000,000, before the Annual Tax Committee of the Board of Supervisors, for the repayment of taxes erroneously imposed upon United States securities owned by them.

Hon. D. W. C. Littlejohn has introduced a bill in the New York Legislature, to incorporate a company to build a ship canal capable of floating vessels of the largest size around the falls of Niagara, and thus opening communication by an American canal, between the upper Lakes and Lake Ontario.

The stockholders of the Columbian Insurance Company of New York, have held another meeting to investigate affairs of the company. It appears that severe and unprecedented losses had so impaired the capital that it would be imprudent to go on any longer. The liabilities are $4,282,000; the assets $3,930,291; leaving a balance of $351,881 72. The Company had been placed in the hands of a receiver, and he has been requested to close.

The Japanese are sending silk worm eggs to the Lyons manufacturers by the way of San Francisco and New York, in order to avoid the less safe though more direct route by the latitude of Bethany.

The amount of wheat shipped from all points in Minnesota during the last year, is now estimated at 8,112,265 bushels. This is a pretty good showing for a State which in 1850 imported food, and which in 1856 only began to produce a surplus.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue recently received a letter from parties, asking whether they may be allowed, in making their monthly returns, to deduct from the value of products the cost of wheels, axles, springs &c., on which the duty has been paid, and which they use in the manufacture of carriages. In answer, the Commissioner says that "the general principle of the excise law is, that each particular manufacture is taxed for the value, though articles used in its production are in themselves manufactures on which the duty has been previously paid. Carriages are liable to duty on their entire value, though wheels, axles, springs, &c., used in their production, have previously paid tax."

An immense cylinder has just been cast in New York at the Etna iron Works. It measures one hundred and ten inches in diameter, with a twelve feet stroke of piston, and is said to be the largest piece of marine machinery ever cast in this or any other country. It weigs eighteen tons, and if it was laid on end thirty people could be seated comfortably around it, and be placed in its centre without experiencing the slightest inconvenience.

A writer in the Providence *Journal* thinks we are likely, soon, to have heavy earthquakes on the Atantic coast, like those of an hundred years ago, which might destroy the greater part of the commercial structures of our large cities. Not a pleasant suggestion, but it will not rob us of our rest.

Of the 1200 officers in the regular army, when the war began, 181 were killed while fighting for the Union, and nearly 500 were wounded—more than half the original number. The number of West Point graduates in the regular army when the war broke out was 820. Of this number 197 resigned and joined the rebels; out of the 623 who remained and fought for the Union, 138 were Southern men.

Many of the ooot and shoe manufacturers in Massachusetts are curtailing their business. Few orders are coming in, and the prospects for the trade, and for the workmen also, are not very favorable.

The Rochester *Advertiser* says belief has obtained credence in that city that many cases of typhoid fever, in certain families in which that disease has raged, has been induced by old wall paper, once layer upon another, having for years been pasted on.

Englishmen Coming to America.—A London letter to the Boston *Advertiser* says: A visit to the United States is generally being accepted as a part of the education of a gentleman who purposes to devote himself to political life. Peers' sons will soon be as plentiful at Boston as they are in the season at Baden or Rome. It is "the thing" to see America. The young bloods of our aristocracy kindle at the thought of a trip to the United States with a glow which neither Florence nor Mont Blanc can produce. In a few weeks will arrive in the Southern States the heir to the dukedom of Argyll, the young Marquis of Lorne, and will have the Hon. Arthur Strutt, the son of another peer, and two young commoners, Mr. H. Yates Thompson and Mr. G. Rodie Thompson. The Duke of Argyll, father of the Marquis of Lorne, was, I need not tell you, the fast friend of the North throughout the civil war, and his influence in the British Cabinet did much to conduce to such neutrality as Mr. Adams has acknowledged to have existed. The young traveller is little more than a lad. Very frequently have I seen him with his father listening to debates in our House of Commons, or by himself in the House of Lords, hearing his father's carefully constructed addresses. Mr. Strutt, who is also very young, is the son of Lord Belper, a peer of recent creation, a manufacturer of immense wealth and of much intelligence. When Mr. Strutt Jr. was a Trinitarian dissenter, but the peerage works wonders in these matters,—only one or two peers, like the Earl of Zetland for example, having the courage to openly connect themselves with any other communion than the established church.

Secretary Stanton.—The New York *Times* deems Mr. Stanton's continuance in the Cabinet of the first importance. At least one thousand claims are pending, the nature of which Mr. Stanton knows better than any other man. This knowledge, says the *Times*, "with his firmness and integrity in resisting extortionate and fictitious and fraudulent exactions, will, during the next three years, save more to the Treasury than the ordinary expenses of administering the Government." Referring to Mr. Stanton's "radicalism," the same paper says: "That Mr. Stanton was radically opposed to secession and rebellion, and that he is radically in favor of securing civil equality to the freedmen, providing by congressional enactment, such guarantees for their welfare as their changed condition requires, is true. But that, like those who are 'running the thing into the ground,' Mr. Stanton is in favor of thrusting the ballot into the feebleminded hand before he is provided with labor, compensation, food and clothing, and before he knows the use of a ballot, is untrue."

Punished for Burning Coal.—Coal was first used as a fuel in London, in the latter part of the 13th century; but the smoke was considered so injurious to the public health that Parliament petitioned King Edward II. to prohibit its burning; as an intolerable nuisance. He complied, and issued a proclamation against it. The severest measures were then employed to abolish its use—fines, imprisonment, and the destruction of the furnaces and workshops where it was used.

PERSONAL.

—The fashionable world of Washington are in ecstacies over General Grant's reception at his residence on Monday evening. The house was thronged with elitisms, distinguished and otherwise, who seemed to be as eager to pay their respects to the great Captain as at the termination of the war.

—Colonel John W. Forney of the Philadelphia *Press*, is lecturing for the benefit of the Soldiers' and Sailors' National Union League.

—The Concord *Statesman* says it is thought that Hon. John W. Sanborn, of Wakefield New Hampshire, will be the Democratic candidate for Governor at the coming election in March.

—Lord Monck, the Governor General of Canada, is about to take up his private and official residence at the new capital, Ottawa. This event brings consternation to the fashionable circles of Montreal, where the departures of the Colonial Court will create a blank that cannot be easily filled.

—A son of Major General B. M. Prentiss left Quincy, Illinois, recently, on skates, with a dispatch for Lagrange, fourteen miles above, and made the run up in fifty-five minutes. He remained there thirty minutes, and then started on his return, and ran down in fifty minutes, having made the round trip of twenty-eight miles in an hour and forty-five minutes running time, at the average rate of a mile in three minutes and forty-five seconds.

—Hon. William H. Tucker, of Chicago, died on Saturday last. Mr. Tucker was a distinguished member of both the Ohio and Wisconsin bar, and served two years in the Senate of the latter State.

—The King of Denmark has recently given unrestricted religious liberty to the Methodist Episcopal church in his dominions, and the United States Minister at Copenhagen takes this for the text of a congratulatory epistle to the American Board of Missions connected with that church.

—Mr. Albert, a prominent member, in 1848, of the French Provisional Government, has been deputed to repair to Cayenne, there to spend the next 16 next, to Mrs. Lincoln, the gold medal, commemorative of President Lincoln, purchased with the proceeds of the cruil war, in the shape of the French people.

—The Hon. William H. Seward has been invited to pronounce an eulogium at the next anniversary of Union College, upon the late venerable President, Rev. Dr. Nott. A career reaching from the colonnial days, when he was born, a subject of King George the Third, to this era of the restored Union, furnishes a theme for eloquence, and the Secretary of State will not fail to do justice to it.

—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher has notified his congregation that he must have an assistant to help him do the work at Plymouth church. So much of his time is taken up with public speaking and writing, he says that he has not sufficient time to visit the poor, the sick, etc.

—Mr. A. J. Glossbrenner, who has been one of the editors and proprietors of the Philadelphia *Age* since its establishment, has disposed of his interest in that journal, and retires from all connection with it.

—James Gordon Bennett addressed the managing editor of the Cincinnati *Commercial* to accept a similar position on the New York *Herald*, but the offer was declined.

—Speaker Colfax is lecturing in the principal cities, the single lecture he delivered here answering the purpose, says a Washington letter: "He is engaged nearly all winter in this way,—for the Saturday nights,—and so far as he has been able to get back here Monday noon. He has two hundred dollars a session, and will have to bring him in a very pretty sum in the course of a few months, but Mr. Colfax is a poor man, comparatively, having earned every dollar that is in his possession."

—The magnificent presents given to the Duchess de Mouchy, (Princess Anna Murat,) on the occasion of her marriage, continue to excite the envy of Parisian belles. The diamond gift, if not the most costly, is the prayer book given by the Empress, and which the fair bride held in her hand during the ceremony. The ivory cover of the truly precious volume is studded on one side a large emerald, on which are interlaced in diamonds the letters that form the name of Mouchy; on the other side the decoration consists of a large diamond cross.

—There is talk in dramatic circles of the approaching *debut* of a young lady of New York, beautiful and accomplished, who has been studying high comedy for some months, under the tuition of an experienced dramatist and elocutionist. She will have sufficient patronage to insure her success at first, and will become a favorite on the boards. She will appear under the name of La Coste.

The Season of Lent.—Archbishop Spalding, of the Baltimore Roman Catholic Diocese, has issued the regulations to be observed by the faithful during the season of Lent, which commences on the 14th inst., and continues forty days. All who have completed their twenty-first year are, unless legitimately dispensed, bound to observe the feast. They are to make only one meal a day, excepting Sundays, and the meal allowed on fast days is not to be taken until noon. A slight refreshment, commonly called collation, is allowed in the evening, but no general rule as to the quantity of food permitted at this time is or can be laid down. The quality of food allowed at a collation is bread, butter, cheese, all kinds of fruit, salads, vegetables and fish, whilst milk and eggs are prohibited. General usage has made it lawful to drink in the morning some warm liquid, as tea, coffee or thin chocolate, made with water. The following reasons are exempted from fasting: Young persons under twenty-one years of age, the sick, nursing women, those who are obliged to do hard labor, and all who, through weakness, without great prejudice to their health, cannot fast.

Mr. Sumner.—The Washington correspondent of the Boston *Traveller* writes as follows: There is much dissatisfaction here with Mr. Sumner's movement yesterday in the Senate, in which action cannot possibly pass, and if it could it would meet with a prompt Presidential veto. Further than that, if adopted, it would not secure to the freedmen their political rights. Such at least is the opinion of the ablest lawyers like Thad. Stevens, Roscoe Conkling, Pitt Fessenden, Mr. Dawes, etc. I do not believe the joint resolution will receive ten votes in the Senate, and if it could reach the House it would not obtain a single vote. No one doubts Mr. Sumner's exalted purpose, but in such matters he certainly lacks practical statesmanship.

DR. J. J. McBRIDE'S
KING OF PAIN,
KING OF PAIN,
KING OF PAIN!

Is still performing wonderful cures. Here is a sample of the certificates we are receiving almost daily:

Pittsburgh, January 19, 1866.

Messrs. McClarran & McKennan.—Gentlemen: Having been troubled with Asthma for the last eight years and finding nothing to give me relief, I was induced to try the King of Pain a bottle of which I purchased from you. I am now entirely relieved, and have not, while I was taking it, I was out in all kinds of weather, my clothes being wet half the time. I will answer for that will address me.

NEF. R. WISHART, Main St., Allegheny.

We are receiving testimonials of this character in particular that have been cured of almost all diseases.

McCLARRAN & McKENNAN
Druggists,
85 Market st., cor. Diamond near Fifth.

TO CONSUMPTIVES.

The Rev. Edward A. Wilson's Prepared Prescription for the cure of Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, and all Throat and Lung affections, has now been in use over ten years with the most marked success.

The remedy, prepared under Mr. Wilson's personal supervision, also a pamphlet containing the original prescription, with full and explicit descriptions for preparation and use, together with a short history of its case may be obtained of

JOSEPH FLEMING, Druggist,
Corner Market street and the Diamond,
Pittsburgh, Pa., or
REV. EDWARD A. WILSON,
165 South Second street,
Williamsburgh, N. Y.

$2 Price of Remedy, $2 00 per package. Pamphlet furnished free of charge. feb

DORING TOOLS AND HYDRAULIC JACKS.

I am selling the heavy boring tools complete, made of the best iron and steel, at $300 the set. I have also the celebrated Hydraulic Jacks, (Blackwood's patent,) for raising vertically or horizontally 4, 7, 10 or 15 tons. Please examine them.

CHARLES MAGGI, Agent,
118 Third street.

SYLVAN ORIENT
HASHEESH CANDY

recommended by high authority, and proved by the experience of thousands to be the best known remedy for Coughs Colds, Asthma, Throat and Lung Diseases, and all derangements of the nervous system. 50c and $1 per box. For sale by
ja24 2weod A. TORRENCE, 4th and Market st.

HASHEESH CANDY--The genuine
SYLVAN ORIENT HASHEESH CANDY,

for Coughs, Colds, Nervous Diseases, and difficulties of the Throat and Lungs. Price 50c and $1 per box. Just received by JOS. FLEMING,
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M. A. JONES & CO.,
(Successors to J. P. Scott.)
WHOLESALE DEALERS IN
DRUGS, OILS AND SPICES,
No. 296 LIBERTY ST., Pittsburgh.
SOLE AGENT
For Capt. E. Holbrooks Banner Brand Tobacco o Louisville, Ky ja12-2mwas

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.—The firm of COLEMAN & CO., has been this day dissolved by mutual consent, A. W. Foster and A. W. Foster, Jr., having sold their interests to Peter Coleman, who will settle the business.

PETER COLEMAN,
A. W. FOSTER,
A. W. FOSTER, Jr.

February 3d 1866—fe6 3t

HERON WORKS.

Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41 and 42 PENN STREET.
FOSTER & COMPANY,
MACHINISTS, IRON FOUNDERS, AND RIVER AND STEAM BOAT BUILDERS.

The Daily Commercial

AFTER 1 SEE.

[illegible]

Full [illegible] the earth will be as serene
As the [illegible] in the summer air,
Then will the [illegible] and the silvery sheen
Of falling waters rest in perfect rare,
Though not to-day.

I shall await in [illegible] my time,
Long-eared, and eager for an upward flight;
With no regret my soul will then be stirred
Through the dark splendor of the jeweled night,
In silence [illegible]
Though not to-day!

The solemn anthems of the sounding sea,
The [illegible] beauty of its whispering tone,
When [illegible] the waves in its restless [illegible],
These [illegible] sound in other bosoms than mine,
[illegible]
If not for me.

The kindly greeting of the friend to friend,
The cordial [illegible] that [illegible] the soul,
The gentle glances that love [illegible] over head,
And [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and low,
These [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
To [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in their brief day,
[illegible]

But O! the unrecorded, untold bliss,
That may be mine in yonder brighter sphere.
The glad [illegible] of the [illegible] host,
That I darkling with and my journey here,
Will be many [illegible] [illegible] perfect
Than earthly friendships with their rude alloy
One give to see.

Though Earth may pass away and be no more,
For heaven and [illegible] are [illegible] for me.
And those to come accept this long before
That I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
The [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible],
May sweep each lingering thought of grief away—
And this [illegible]

FEMALE LECTURERS.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Had your correspondents "Allegheny," "Dixmont" and "L. D." attacked in solid column they would have been irresistible; and they kept even within supporting distance of each other, the shock would have been terrible; but they have scattered their forces; they advance with divided counsels and may be cut off by detachments. What "Allegheny" admits without argument, "Dixmont" contends for with all the frenzy of a maniac. "Allegheny" is disposed to bring up Scriptural proofs, and to maintain his very moderate stand with the fair weapons of argument. "Dixmont" contends for the sexuality principle in all its beautiful proportions, and whatever "Dixmont" says, is echoed in a piping voice away down at the foot of the column by "L. D," which stands no doubt for *Lady Dear*, probably one of the first fruits of Miss Dickinson's mission.

"Take her up tenderly,
Lift her with care."

Perhaps a thought inspires her youthful mind to be the greatest of womankind, and redeem her sex from the thraldom of six thousand years; but to do this and to subvert the present relations of the two sexes as established by Nature, modesty, and the whole tenor of Scripture teaching, will require something more than mere assertion. "A lady has a right to lecture if she pleases." No doubt of it! But prove it! or at least tell us the reason why!

Not a single argument nor a substantial inference can be discovered by the most careful analysis of the article of "L. D;" consequently, she will excuse my want of gallantry if I do not attempt to disprove what she does not attempt to establish. We will take her word for it as present.

But I have next to deal with a more troublesome character. I had no idea that "Dixmont" would have been aroused by my article. I believe the law would not make him responsible for anything he does or says. His hallucination may have something to do with this subject. I would advise his keepers to let him have full use of paper and ink, and not rouse him by contradiction. "Dixmont" first calls my article 'very absurd," for which I am very much obliged to him. He next regrets that some one more competent than I has not come to the rescue, which I agree with him. His third assertion styles my ideas "imported," and as not harmonizing with American notions of nobleness and progress. On the contrary, his ideas are exactly those originated by the celebrated Mary Woolstonecraft, a foreigner, a woman who carried them out in practice and died an infidel as to his next argument, I say that woman may be very native in "Christian and benevolent beauties," and in many another duty which calls her temporarily from house and home without any approach to public speaking, or to sublimity of any sort; the cause are not parallel and if the ladies who lectures in public were of the same class as those who do God's service in visiting the sick and visiting the poor, I would feel constrained to say nothing against them. Whether public speaking is apt to cause a woman to lose her modesty, and to unfit her for domestic life, is a question of fact. Those who know best ought to be able to tell. Surely the reputation of the stage goes to prove it. The necessary absence from home—the strong passion for fame—the excitement and the constant thirst and strife of public life, cannot, in the nature of things, produce a taste for the domestic virtues. The atmosphere is not congenial for them. If one of the three lecturers mentioned by Dixmont was blessed with a husband that palliates her case. Necessity is a hard master, but it affects not the principle. As to be Christian motives of Miss Dickinson, I have no doubts. In this connection "L. D." calls "Copperheadism." I cordially have not the hard words against Abraham Lincoln to repent of that Miss Dickinson has. Finally, as to "Dixmont," I am inclined to think that the women that he thinks I am, I believe in opposing to them every occupation for which their strength and fine intellects fit them, but not those which compel them in accepting them to lay aside their womanhood.

Allegheny, I think will hardly, upon reflection, contend that I quote "isolated passages" from Scripture. Those I have quoted are *representative* texts because they agree with the whole spirit and continuous teachings of the Bible. In case of Anna, the prophetess, is no exception. Her business, it is said, in the temple was with fastings and prayers, and there is not a word about her *preaching* or not. She was a widow of about four score and four years" is not much of a precedent for the juvenile Miss Evans. But the strongest point in this dispute is another advanced by *Allegheny*. He admits the rule but claims exceptions; and there are few rules which do not admit of exceptions; nevertheless, if God made the rule, can man make exceptions? Hard cases unmake the law? Giving up the principle on account of the brilliant oratory of Miss Dickinson, or the pure sentiments of Miss Evans, or the necessities of another would give a precedent to all whose vanity or pecuniary might lead them to the same style of life.

Because I wished to give a fair reply to each of my opponents, I have made perhaps the length of this article to grow beyond its interest. In this subject I stand in the old paths. The burden of proof lies upon those who support the innovation. And if neither reason nor revelation support it, we ought to be content with the old order of things. PRESBYTERIAN.

Female Lecturers—The Other Side.

To the Editor of the Commercial:

My attention has been drawn to an article in your issue of the 31 inst., from a correspondent signing himself "Presbyterian," headed "Female Lecturers."

It seems to me that the article referred to is so tinged with the spirit of the "Dark Ages," and contains some assertions and principles so essentially false and erroneous, that it should not be suffered to pass unchallenged. Your correspondent, after paying a just, and, so far as it goes, generous tribute to woman's worth and influence, says: "But there are proper channels in which her influence is to work, and these are plainly marked out, both by the rules of good society and the rules of the Bible, as is the channel in which the Mississippi flows." Surely nothing could be more incorrect in point of fact, or difficult to reconcile with the history of the past fifty years.

The time was when it was considered improper and inexpedient to teach girls the classics, or trigonometry, or perspective, or skating; but those days have passed. The time was when it was thought impossible for a woman to say or write anything worthy of the admiration or reverence of the world; but since Elizabeth Barret Browning, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, and other noble spirits, have lived and spoken, the world has been forced to pause and listen, and wonder, and believe. "Aroma Leigh" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin"—falling like bomb-shells into the camp of the unbelievers—have left some scars which will not soon be obliterated, and buried some theories in reference to the comparative weight, and consequent capacity, of the brains of the two sexes beyond a resurrection. The truth is, woman's influence and woman's sphere are daily widening, as the progress of society demands they should. Old barriers are being demolished, and new channels cut; and he is a rash man indeed, who will attempt to make out the limits to progress, and say "thus far, and no farther."

But, says your correspondent, "to say that a young lady of sweet sixteen can speak to an assembly of a thousand men after lamp, and still retain the blushing modesty of female innocence, is absurd." No more absurd than to say that a young lady can sing at a concert or in a church choir, or sell dry goods, or attend a postoffice, year after year, and still retain the blushing modesty of female innocence," or if it is, the *blushing* ceases to be a virtue. But, continues "Presbyterian"—and this I consider the climax—"when and where a girl of sixteen could obtain the knowledge and experience necessary to fit her to give an *address to young men* is a mystery to me!" I cannot share in the mystery. I do not know what "Presbyterian's" advantages have been for observing the characters, or enjoying the society of young ladies, although if those with whom he has been brought in contact were dieted on "chalk and slate pencils," I do not wonder that he is skeptical as to the quality of the brain-work and heart-work they are capable of; but my experience has proved to me, beyond a doubt, that in many things highly desirable and necessary to be known, a young man will find no *opinions* more *competent* teacher than a sweet girl of sixteen, or any of the teens following. I sincerely pity that young man who believes that he can learn nothing from a young lady; and I more sincerely pity that young lady who is incapable of learning from any man *anything!* Schiller says, in one of his finest poems —"Genius give the clearness, and in its fullness and depth of meaning because the Anglo-Saxon will not do justice to the original—that what is hard, and intricate, and unapproachable to the wise and learned, is perfectly simple and plain to a "childish spirit," because of its greater *purity* and *faith*, and certainly of these virtues "a girl of sweet sixteen," if she has been properly educated, and is free from the unnatural excellence, the emoodiment.

There is something sublime in the confidence and faith that a young girl has in the honor and integrity of men. She will stake everything there. What is it, but a noble, unselfish, unsuspicious magnanimity; an *unwillingness* to adopt the popular fallacy that "we should consider all men knaves till they are proven honest?" You will find no faith corresponding to this in degree, in purity, in sublimity, in consequence, among women. Men do not esteem so. They draw the lines sharply between the "mine" and "thine," and are not willing to run risks. I do not hear Miss Evans, but I had the pleasure of listening to Miss Dickenson on "Flood Tides," in Lafayette Hall filled to overflowing with an audience of respectability and intelligence. Business men, doctors, divines, the leading men of Pittsburgh, or some of them at least. That audience was held to close attention for nearly two hours, and swayed and moved to tears by the story of the sufferings of our brave Union soldiers, told in the simple eloquent language of an earnest woman pleading for the right. That was the effect of truth, applied to the mind and conscience by eloquence, and was its own defense. Who doubts that that audience went away more determined to see justice done to those? The truth was spoken, eloquently spoken; the audience testified to that.

Ah! yes, but the speaker was a woman! Is "Presbyterian" ready for *conquestion* in this matter? Let us have done with this ungenerous, unmanly discrimination. Let us have fair play. If Miss Carrie A. Moore believes that she is the best skater in the United States, or in any particular State, she is certainly entitled to her faith in that idea. Let the challenge be given; let the lists be opened; let the trial be made; if Miss Carrie A. Moore can prove her faith by her works, then, by all that is just and honorable, and sacred, pass her the compliment. If Miss Anna E. Dickenson aspires to rival Henry Ward Beecher, and Wendell Phillips, and George W. Curtis, and believes that she is capable of being their rival, she is certainly entitled to her faith in that idea. Let the challenge be given; let the lists be opened; let the trial be made. If Miss Anna E. Dickenson

BY TELEGRAPH.

FIFTEEN CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION

WASHINGTON, February 7.

SENATE.

MR. HENDRICKS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, reported that no further legislation was necessary to exempt Northern creditors from the operation of the Southern statutes of limitation, as the subject was covered by the act of June 11th, 1864.

MR. CHANDLER called up the House bill to prevent the re-issue of American registers to American vessels whose registers were changed during the war, which was passed—Yeas, 34; Nays, 12.

MR. WILSON called up the joint resolution to amend the Constitution by prohibiting the renumeration of any State for the emancipation of slaves, which was referred to the Reconstruction Committee.

MR. CLARKE, from the Judiciary Committee, reported a bill to punish kidnappers of white and colored persons by a fine of from two hundred to five hundred dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding five years, or both. Masters of vessels carrying such persons knowingly are subject to a heavy penalty. Mr. ——

MR. CONNESS introduced a bill for granting land for a railroad from San Francisco to Humboldt.

The joint resolution in relation to representation was taken up.

MR. FESSENDEN took the floor and spoke at length in favor of the resolution of the Committee on Reconstruction. Mr. E. V. McKenna may be entitled to the portion of the late Senator's speech, and showed the impracticability of Mr. Sumner's propositions.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MR. CLARKE, of Kansas, introduced a bill granting lands to Kansas for railroad and telegraph purposes in that State.

MR. MORRILL took up the bill heretofore reported by him from the Committee of Ways and Means, declaring the meaning of certain parts of the Internal Revenue act. The words "all dividends in scrip or money hereafter declared due, and wherever the same shall be payable to stockholders or bondholders of corporations," the word "stockholders" shall mean all persons or name whatsoever who are or may be stockholders, including non-residents, whether citizens or aliens; the words "all such interest on coupons, dividends, or profits, whenever the same shall be payable, are declared to apply to all such interest or coupons, dividends or profits, whatever the same age or may be payable, and to whatever party or person the same are or may be payable, including non-residents, whether citizens or aliens. The third section requires all persons to make returns on lists of income and articles or objects charged with any duty or tax, and to declare in such returns whether the several rates and amounts therein contained are stated according to their value in legal tender currency, and in case of neglect or refusal so to state to the satisfaction of the assistant assessor receiving such returns or lists, such assistant assessor is hereby required to make returns or lists for such persons so neglecting or refusing, as in the case of persons neglecting or refusing to make lists or returns required by the Internal Revenue laws, and to assess the duty and to add thereto the amount of penalties imposed by law in case of such neglect or refusal. Whenever the rate of amounts contained in the lists or returns shall be stated in coined money, it shall be the duty of each assessor receiving the same to reduce such rates and amounts to their equivalent in legal tender currency, according to the value of such coined money in said currency at the time and place where said lists or returns are receivable, and which value the assessor shall determine.

MR. MORRILL explained that the first part of the bill referred to railroad securities, &c., held abroad, and required taxes to be paid upon them; and the second part referred to taxes to be paid upon returns as computed in legal tender, and not on the amount in coined money. The bill was passed.

MR. RICE, of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported a bill to further regulate the appointment of rear admirals and the transfer of volunteer officers to the regular navy. It was recommitted to the Committee.

MR. BROOKS, of New York, presented the credentials of the members elect from Alabama. He supposed they would have to go to the Committee on Elections (Yes, yes, yes, that's so!) The credentials were then referred without debate to the Committee on Reconstruction.

MR. BROOKS said that he held in his hand a petition signed by a large number of persons, claiming the right to vote. On looking over the list of standing committees, he could not find any to which the petition could properly be referred to. He thought of the Committee of Claims, but he did not know whether the chairman of that committee would be satisfied to give the petition consideration. He thought, too, of the Freedmen's Committee, because it related to males. (Laughter.)

MR. DAVIS, of New York, suggested that the petition be referred to a select committee of nine.

MR. BROOKS said that he had also thought of the Judiciary Committee, but was not satisfied as to how far the gallantry of the chairman would be satisfied. He therefore, with pleasure, asked advice as to what committee the petition should be referred.

MR. STEVENS, of Pennsylvania, suggested a special committee, with the gentleman from New York (Mr. Brooks) as chairman.

MR. BROOKS said that the committee of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Stevens) knew about everything, and he supposed that it would absorb this petition.

MR. WILSON, of Iowa, said it should be referred to the Committee on Elections so that the gentleman (Mr. Brooks) could have an opportunity of speaking.

MR. BROOKS—I am now serving on that committee, and I don't like it. (Laughter.) The petition was then referred to the Committee on Reconstruction.

MR. JULIAN, from the Committee on Public Lands, declaring that from and after the passage of this act, all the public lands in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Florida shall be disposed of according to the stipulations of the homestead law of May 20, 1862, entitled an act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain, and act supplemental thereto, approved March 21, 1864, but with this restriction, that no entry shall be made for more than eighty acres, and that the public lands in said States shall be disposed of in no other manner than by the passage of this act; provided, that no distinction or discrimination shall be made in the construction of this act on account of race or color, and no mineral lands shall be liable to entry or settlement under its provisions.

MR. JULIAN read a statement to show that there are in those States 46,378,000 acres of land, only one-tenth of them being improved. This bill was merely to extend the privileges of the homestead principles. The liberation of the poor blacks created the necessity for the passage of this measure. The limitation of 160 acres, he confined the homesteads to 80 acres, and there is to be no sale of public lands. Without this provision, large speculators may lease the whole of them. Of the three millions of people in those States, only one man in fifteen is a landholder.

MR. LELAND, of Ohio, said the bill was not compatible with the best interests of the Government.

MR. RICE, of Maine, said that he introduced the original bill. It would do more harm than construction than any other measure. It proposed to offer public lands to the landless for sale, and it said to the freedmen, "Cultivate the soil and draw around you your wives and children." This would be the worst policy against those who had oppressed them. Liberty will grow them, provided you protect them in their possessions, for wherever you find a multiplication of farms there you find liberty.

MR. FARNSWORTH, of New York, said this bill involved the primary principles of the right of property; while professedly preventing speculation from one section, it promotes speculation in another. The object of the bill was to create dissension among the races, and to enable the negroes to crowd the whites out of the land, and thus stem the tide of emigration of white people. The question is not whether the negro is to have the land, but whether the white man is not to have the land.

MR. HARDING, of Illinois, said that the best tracts of land in the West were held by speculators, and he desired some provision extended to them to prevent such monopolies.

The House disagreed to MR. TABER'S resolution by 37 against 101. The bill went over till to-morrow by the expiration of the morning hour.

The Senate bill giving the franking privilege to Mrs. Mary Lincoln was then passed.

The House then passed the Senate bill entitling the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad to a grant of land, provided by law in case it completed twenty miles by December first next. Also, a Senate resolution appropriating $10,000 for expenses of the Committee on Reconstruction.

The House then resumed the consideration of the navy appropriation bill. Several items for Brooklyn Navy Yard were stricken out. Nearly all the items for Norfolk Navy Yard were stricken out. Twenty thousand dollars were appropriated for the defense of the Norfolk yard. The House then took a recess.

EVENING SESSION.

The evening session was devoted entirely to speeches by Messrs. Walker, of Ohio, Henderson, of Oregon, and Kelso, of Missouri. Adjourned.

THE CHILIAN TORPEDO BOATS.

Arrest of E. V. Mackenna and Stephen Rogers.

NEW YORK, February 7.—Late on Saturday evening District Attorney Dickinson received information that certain persons in this city were engaged in fitting out torpedoes and torpedo boats for Chilo hoping to be used as sent in the war with Spain. Acting upon this information, the United States Grand Jury presented two indictments against Benjamin V. Mackenna and Stephen Rogers. One of the counts in the indictment charges that the defendant Mackenna set on foot a military expedition against the territory of the Queen of Spain. The third count charges Stephen Rogers with providing a certain military expedition to be carried on from this city against the dominions of the Queen of Spain. The fourth count charges that he prepared means for a military expedition. Application was made to Judge Shipman for search warrants which were placed in the hands of Marshal Murray for execution. The arrest of Mr. Rogers, the Consul, was made without trouble. More difficulty was found in the arrest of Mackenna, but he was finally found and taken into custody. He protested against his arrest. It was an insult to to the civilized representative, and an offense against the law of nations. Mackenna spent last night in his own house, carefully guarded by two of the officers of the Marshal. This morning the warrant was communicated to the District Attorney, and Mr. Stetson and others called on Daniel S. Dickinson, United States District Attorney, and as counsel for Mackenna, indignantly demanded his release, alleging that he was a Chilian Ambassador. Telegrams were sent to Washington concerning Mackenna's official position. The final answer received from the Chilian Minister was that Mackenna was not to be considered to belong to the Chilian Legation. The second answer returned was from Secretary Seward, who said Mackenna was not known in any official capacity to the State Department. Acting on these replies, the authorities here held the parties after they had been in custody for a short time, they were taken into court, and Mackenna, who is said to be the original promoter of the schemes, was held to bail in ten thousand dollars to appear from day to day, while Rogers, who is not so deeply implicated, was held to bail in five thousand dollars. Messrs. George G. Hobson and Theodore W. Riley became the bail for Mackenna, and Geo. Dickson, Jr., became the bail for Stephen Rogers. The parties were justified before Commissioner Hallowell, after examination by Ethan Allen, Esq., and the parties were released, their bonds, however, requiring them to appear from day to day. From the present indications, the parties will be placed on trial in a few days.

IDAHO LEGISLATURE.

President's Policy Indorsed—Railroad Charter Granted.

SALT LAKE, February 4.—The Legislature of Idaho, unanimously indorsed the reconstruction policy of President Johnson, and the administration of Governor Lyon, and pledging their support to the same. It also granted a Territorial charter for a branch Pacific Railroad from Salt Lake to the Columbia, through the Valley of Snake river.

Fire Alarm Telegraph in Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, February 7.—The fire alarm and police telegraph which has been in process of construction for the past six months by Messrs. Kennard & Co., of Boston, has been completed and goes into operation to-day. This is the largest and most complete telegraph of the kind in the world.

Highly Interesting.

Chilian Consul and Agent Arrested—Fenian Arms Discovered—Shipments of Arms and Ammunition to Vera Cruz—Napoleon Displeased with Maximilian—Banquet to Gen. Grant—Prison Keeper Convicted of Counterfeiting—Man Shot—Quarantine of Ship Europa—Letter from M. Montholon—Shooting Affray in Richmond—Crop Prospects in the South, &c., &c.

NEW YORK, February 5.

CHILIAN CONSUL ARRESTED.

Stephen Rogers, Chilian Consul, has been arrested on an indictment for a violation of the neutrality laws. The *World* announces that the grand jury have indicted Senor Benjamin V. Mackenna, Chilian Agent, and Judge Shipman yesterday issued a bench warrant for his arrest, which was executed by Marshal Murray. Mackenna is now in custody, and will be arraigned before the Circuit Court to-day. The charge is fitting out an expedition from this port, which is said to have sailed some time since, for the destruction, by torpedoes, of the Spanish blockading fleet. It is alleged that particulars of the affair were printed a month ago, and were generally regarded as sensational.

The Chilian Minister telegraphs District Attorney Dickinson, that Mr. B. V. Mackenna may not be considered to belong to the Chilian legation. Messrs. Mackenna and Rogers have both given bail to appear from day to day. He recognizes Mackenna in $10,000 and Rogers in $5,000. The torpedo boats, two in number, are lying in North river.

FENIAN ARMS.

Dennis O'Sullivan was arrested to-day while driving a team containing six large cases, the actions being considered suspicious. He confessed they were military equipments for the Fenians. They were consigned by Col. O'Mahony, and the prisoner discharged.

SHIPMENTS OF MUNITIONS OF WAR TO VERA CRUZ.

A shipment of pistols and ammunition to Vera Cruz for private use has been prevented by the authorities at Washington. It is presumed trade in arms will be considered free unless it appears the arms are intended for belligerent use.

NAPOLEON DISPLEASED WITH MAXIMILIAN.

The Paris correspondent of the London daily *News* says that it has transpired in Court circles that the Emperor Napoleon is greatly displeased with the Emperor Maximilian on very many grounds, especially on account of the bad reception given to the French Councillor of State, sent to Mexico to take the finances in hand, and it is insinuated that this is one reason for the withdrawal of the French troops.

BANQUET.

The members of a union club of this city have tendered an invitation to Lieutenant General Grant and staff to unite with them in a banquet at their rooms, corner of Fifth avenue and Twenty-first street, on Washington's birthday.

CONVICTED.

To-day, in the United States Circuit Court, Fiero, the late keeper of Sing Sing, was convicted of counterfeiting and remanded for sentence.

MAN SHOT.

A quarrel occurred in a restaurant in Courtland street to-day, during which a man named Calil was shot dead. One of the participants, named Stripp, was arrested. The others escaped.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS—THE SHIP EUROPA.

Acting Secretary of State, W. Hunter, has transmitted to Governor Fenton, a letter from the Marquis De Montholon, minister of France, to the Secretary of State, in regard to the detention for a short time at quarantine in the harbor, of the steamship Europa, from Havre. The minister speaks of the excellent condition of the health of the passengers of the Europa, and of the little effect the quarantine has had at Havre when the vessel took her departure, asking that quarantine regulations here in force be more relaxed. Gov. Fenton transmitted the letter to health officer Swinburn, who replies that a majority of the passengers of the Europa came from Paris, where the cholera existed as an epidemic; that the steamship Atlanta, on her arrival here, had many cases of cholera, and though the Europa had been provided with a Sanitan billof health on clearing from Havre, so had the Atlanta, and that it is a matter of history, that vessels which brought cholera to this city in 1849 and 1854, came with clean bills of health from Havre. He added that if the health authorities of New York had done less in regard to the Atlantic, Europa, and other vessels, they would have done less than duty.

THE DUELLO IN RICHMOND.

The Richmond *Whig* of the 6th, says it was rumored last night that Lucian Polk and Captain Millwood, of the Spootswood Hotel, who had an altercation the other night, met yesterday morning and exchanged shots. Captain Millwood received a shot in the stomach.

SOUTHERN CROP PROSPECTS.

The Charleston *Courier* says the gentleman who is traveling in an official capacity through the Southern States, for the purpose of making a reporton the agricultural condition of the country, called at our office a few days since, and we were agreeably surprised at the encouraging affairs in the interior. So far as he was able to discover, the plantations were being worked profitably, the negroes generally contented and hopeful. It is thought the yield of cot-on this year will be fully one-half of that of ordinary limes.

NAPOLEON'S SPEECH.

Relations of France and England—Withdrawal of French Troops from Mexico.

NEW YORK, February 7.—The following is a portion of the Emperor Napoleon's speech to the Corps Legislatif, delivered January 22d:

"To give you an account, as for preceding years, I will examine with you the principal questions which interest our country abroad. Since scarcely a country exists in Europe where the means are sought for of amicably settling difficulties, in place of arming them with the sword. The meeting of the English and French fleets in the same ports, the visits of the sovereigns, the relations formed upon the field of battle have not been weakened. The same can be said of the relations of the two countries. In regard to Germany, my intention is to continue to observe a policy of conciliation and moderation. Although at times from being displeased or dissatisfied, leaves us, nevertheless, strangers to matters in which our interests are not directly engaged. Italy, recognized by almost all the Powers of Europe, is entering upon the opportunity by inaugurating its capital in the centre of the Peninsula. We may consider with scrupulous exactness the treaty of the 15th of September, and upon the independence and the nationality of the Holy Father. I expressed the hope last year, that our expedition to Mexico was approaching its termination. In continuing in an understanding with the Emperor Maximilian to fix the epoch for the recall of our troops, as fixed by the convention, I have been affected without our compromising the French honor, which we have been defending, in that remote country. North America, losing victoriously from a formidable struggle, has established its Union, and solemnly proclaimed the abolition of slavery. France, which regrets not her noble page in her historical annals, wishes for the prosperity of the great American republic, and for the maintenance of friendly relations. The emotion produced in the United States by the presence of our troops on the Mexican soil will be pacified by the frankness of our declaration. The American people will comprehend that our expedition was not opposed to their principles. Our troops, mostly natives of their independence, ought to avoid every step which might affect their dignity and their honor.

FROM MEXICO.

The Pope and Maximilian to be Reconciled—Rumored Defeat of Liberal Forces—Arrival of French Reinforcements—Governor of Lower California Defies—Troops to be Sent to Lower California—Plot Against the War Minister Discovered.

NEW ORLEANS, February 7.—Arrived, the ships Martha (obb, from Boston, and Lamnugeye from Liverpool.

The Mexican Monitor, from Havana, with City of Mexico dates to January 8th, has arrived.

Monsieur Elcon is going to Europe for a long stay.

Landers, the newly arrived Finance Minister, had a long private interview with Maximilian.

A semi-official journal announces that through the disinterested intervention of Napoleon, the misunderstanding between Maximilian and the Pope will soon be satisfactorily adjusted.

It was not yet heard at the City of Mexico that Juarez had left Chihuahua, but it was known that Negrete was at San Antonio.

James A. Garcia was appointed Prefect of Nueva Leon, and Simon Blanca of Coahuila.

Figurola, the Liberal General, operating in Ojacca, was repulsed and retreated towards Tehuantepec. A body of 2,000 Liberals whipped Col. Garcia.

The Liberals sent to the City of Mexico for trial had been shot. Col. Patico, a Liberal, who was also to be shot at Monilan, had been sent to the City of Mexico for trial.

Marshal Bazaine has gone to Querreterro to arrange an Imperialist military movement.

French reinforcements have been sent to Matalita.

The Governor of Lower California, who tried to induce the people to submit quietly to Maximilian's authority, on failing to do so, left the country. A military force is to be sent there to force obedience.

Dr. Manuel Larramgaer has been sent by Maximilian as Envoy Extraordinary to Russia, Sweden and Denmark.

A plot against the life of Maximilian's War Minister, was discovered. Several persons have been arrested, two or colonels among them.

The liberal leader at Latremen was defeated by the Imperialists, above Pago de Norville, and retreated to Popiatty. Gen. Fernando Ortega was also defeated by the Imperialists and fled to Eleccion.

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CITY MATTERS.

Another Fire in Lawrenceville.

Citizens' Passenger Railway Stables and Car House, Together with Three Dwellings, Destroyed—Twenty-nine Valuable Horses Burned to Death—The Fire the Work of an Incendiary.

Yesterday morning about three o'clock the stable and car house of the Citizens' Passenger Railway, with other buildings, situated on the corner of Butler and Borough streets, in Lawrenceville, were totally destroyed by fire. The flames were first discovered by the watchman issuing from the roof of the stable, near the corner of the building next to Borough street. The alarm was immediately given, but owing to the lateness of the hour and the fact that all the drivers were asleep, it was some time before any assistance arrived. Mr. Wm. Livingston, the superintendent of the stables, was the first to appear at the scene, and with great presence of mind entered the burning building, and succeeded in taking most of the horses out and leading them into the street. Assistance having arrived, the cars were taken out of the shed and run down the track into the street, out of reach of the flames. In a short time the Niagara Engine House steam engine arrived at the scene of the fire, but owing to the scarcity of water in the Borough, it was half an hour or more before they could render assistance. After considerable effort the hose of both companies was connected, and attached to a plug in the Arsenal grounds, after which valuable service was rendered. Other fire companies were on the ground, but were prevented from doing any work, on account of the exhausted supply of water.

The stable being a wooden structure, and filled with hay and other combustible matter, burned with fearful rapidity, and in a short time the whole building was a sheet of flames. Immediately over the rear of the building was a small stable, also owned by the company, which was consumed. Three frame dwellings and a store, on Borough street, just above the main building, and owned by Mr. John Naser, also took fire and were destroyed. The front houses were occupied by Pares Eaches, who lost most of his furniture. The rear houses were tenanted by Mr. John Howard and a widow lady, but they were both fortunate, and succeeded in saving most of their goods. The stable contained two mules, a horse and cow, which were taken out by Mr. Naser and led into the street. Adjoining the stable, and also above it, on Butler street, was a large two-story frame house, occupied by Mr. Livingston, which, together with most of his household goods, was totally destroyed. A shop containing tools, owned by Adam Benadet, Jr., was also completely destroyed.

At the time of the breaking out of the fire, there were about one hundred horses in the stable, and by the strenuous efforts of the Superintendent and watchmen, all were saved but twenty-nine, which number perished in the flames. Two others, which were badly scorched by the fire, were subsequently killed to end their misery. The stable contained about seventy tons of hay and twenty tons of straw. The loss of the Company will amount to about twenty thousand dollars, and is fully covered by insurance in the following companies: Delaware Mutual, Philadelphia Fire and Life, Monongahela, Pittsburgh and Allegheny Insurance Companies. Mr. Naser's loss amounts to about three hundred dollars, and that of Mr. Benedict to about two hundred dollars.

The buildings opposite the stable, on Butler street, were at one time in great danger, but escaped with slight injury, through the exertions of the firemen. The fire was most undoubtedly the work of an incendiary, as no fire is permitted in the stable after nightfall. Owing to the fire engine house being so near, and to some inconvenience yesterday, but it is expected that by to-day everything will go on as usual.

Engineers' Benevolent Association—Its Good Institution.

For some time we have been aware that the Western and Southern Engineers' Benevolent Association had an organization in this city, but not until recently have we understood the aims and objects to which it owes its foundation. The first grand objects of the Association, which is composed of licensed engineers, are benevolence and charity, and none more meritorious can be conceived. They propose aiding the widow and family of each member taken by sickness, death or disaster. Their next principal aim is the moral advancement of engineers, and the cultivation of a higher and more intellectual standard, whereby their profession may be elevated, honored and improved thereby. In thus forming themselves together, the question of remuneration for services is strictly forbidden, believing, as they do, that remuneration will follow as a matter of results in this enlightened age. Their hall is tastefully embellished with mechanical drawings, new apparatus, &c. Since the last organization, a new library and reading room have been added, containing all the standard mechanical works, papers, &c., which will add greatly to the attractiveness of the hall. It will be the constant aim of the Association to exalt the profession, and bring the engineer up to that proper standard of respectability which ought to be and is attaining. The members are men of standing in the community, and the Association will add life long term in obtaining the requisite knowledge and skill in their business. The present number is about one hundred members, and their numbers are daily increasing. In Wheeling, Cincinnati, Louisville, New Albany, Evansville, St. Louis, New Orleans, Mobile and other cities, the organization is working successfully with the promise of equal results. The duties of the engineer are very responsible. The lives of the traveling community are in his hands. Millions of property are confided to his care and keeping. Surely, if their condition can be bettered, they have the best wishes of the community at large to do so. To do so, it is proposed to have at an early day a series of scientific lectures on steam, which will not only be interesting to the engineer, but to the community at large. The Association is a chartered institution.

"Judas Maccabeus"—Handel's Grand Oratorio.

This noble specimen of the genius of Handel, the great composer, is so little known in this part of the world, that there is danger of some of our readers allowing themselves to miss the opportunity of hearing it on Thursday evening next. The Pittsburgh Choral Union, as we announced a few days ago, propose to bring out this Oratorio at Masonic Hall at that time. We know that some are looking forward to this concert with pleasant anticipation. It is undoubtedly proper to call it a concert of sacred music, yet it is of altogether a different character from the ordinary concerts we are familiar with, the "Messiah." From the nature of the subject, as well as from the way it has been treated, the music is more simply written, and is of better taste. Essentially martial in its character, it abounds in stirring movements, sound sentiment and boldness. Our young friends of the Choral Union are entering into the matter with more and more interest every day, and are determined to make every effort to render appropriately the glowing conceptions of the gifted author.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE.—Owing to the high prices which real estate in this city commands, an immense quantity of valuable property in the market. Mr. T. A. McClelland, auctioneer, had a large sale on Tuesday. The three story brick warehouse, corner of Liberty street, No. 35, recently occupied by Mr. Alexander King, was purchased by Mr. Charles Arbuthnot, dry goods merchant on Wood street, for $11,000. Twelve lots on Penn street, occupied by Dr. James A. Herron, was sold for $7,000. An adjoining dwelling and a warehouse were also sold at $6,700 and $6,300, respectively. Martin Heyl, the well known tobacconist, purchased the latter property. The attendance at the sale was unusually large, and the prices obtained were considerably higher than had been anticipated.

INDEPENDENT POLICE.—Messrs. Sam. Long, Seth Willmot, George Culp, A. L. Kemp and Hamilton Lowry, have organized themselves into an independent police force, and will, for the present, have their headquarters at Alderman Strain's office, on Fifth street. The gentlemen are known as vigilant and efficient officers, and will undoubtedly succeed in their new positions. They were all members of the city police during the late Mayor's administration.

STRIKE CONCLUDED.—Yesterday morning the drivers on the Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Passenger Railway struck for higher wages. The conclusion, and resumed their positions on the road on the terms proposed by the managers. Passengers on this route are now required to pay their fares into the box, the drivers being instructed to furnish the necessary change.

ALLEGHENY BOARD OF CONTROLLERS.—At a meeting of this Board, held on Tuesday evening, the following officers were elected: President, Rev. John B. Clark, D. D.; Secretary, R. B. Francis, Receiver, David Macferron; Treasurer, W. Hamilton. The time for holding the regular meetings was changed from the second Tuesday of each month to the first Tuesday of January, April, July and October.

DWELLING BURNED.—At midnight, Saturday, 3d inst., the dwelling of Mrs. Robert Cunningham, situated in Fairfield township, Westmoreland county, was totally destroyed by fire, together with a portion of its contents. The fire was discovered by depositing a bucket of wood ashes in too close proximity to the house. Probably loss $3,000, and no insurance.

FIRST WARD SCHOOL BOARD.—The First Ward School Board was organized on Monday last by electing Mr. Adams Getty, President; W. B. Hunter, Esq., Secretary, and Mr. E. R. Canghey, Treasurer. Mr. Adams Getty was chosen representative to the Central Board of Education.

SWORN INTO OFFICE.—Alderman Lewis R. Lindsay, of the Third ward, Allegheny, was sworn into office yesterday in the District Court, by Judge Hampton, and will enter at once upon the duties of his position.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.—A stated meeting of the Councils of Allegheny City will be held this evening. The annual supper, by the city officers, will be given at the confectionery of Mr. John K. Brown, upon the adjournment of Councils.

Public Amusements.

THEATRE.—Mr. McDonough and Miss Kuhn appear in Arrah na Pogue to-night.

OPERA HOUSE.—Miss Jean Hosmer will appear as Parthenia, in Ingomar, this evening.

MASONIC HALL.—Skiff & Gaylord's Minstrels, a favorite troupe, make their first appearance to-night.

THROAT DISEASES.—We would call attention to Brown's Bronchial Troches. We have found them efficacious in allaying irritation in the Throat and Bronchia, and would commend them to the attention of Public Speakers and others troubled with affections of the Throat. They are also an excellent remedy for Hoarsenes resulting from cold.—*Congregationalist, Boston.*

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"RECONSTRUCTION."

Lecture by Henry Ward Beecher.

The City Hall was crowded again last night by an intelligent audience, to hear Henry Ward Beecher, of New York, speak on the subject of "Reconstruction." Mr. Beecher appeared under the auspices of the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association. The hall was scarcely commodious enough to accommodate all who desired to hear the lecturer, and, therefore, a great many people were not accommodated who had counted upon being there. The receipts for the two lectures given in Pittsburgh by Mr. Beecher, amounted to within a fraction of two thousand dollars, so that the Library Association will be netted a handsome sum. It is understood that John B. Gough will follow Mr. Beecher in the course given by the Association, in the latter part of next month, when he will deliver three lectures. The reverend gentleman is said to be a very rich intellectual feast, but in discussing the question of "reconstruction," he failed to apply that word to the States, preferring rather to speak of it as associated with the political and civil equality of the white and black race in this country. National life flowed in the channels appointed by the doctrine of all monarchs, which gave nations more importance than the people—making the latter rather the means to the end; hence the reformation or new doctrine rose to the surface which placed man above society and rendered government less than either. The old view was founded upon a want of faith in human nature, and of trusting man with the control of his own interests. The new view was based upon man's capacity for self-government. This latter doctrine planted our shores with the Pilgrim Fathers, and in later years it spilt upon the colonies, and finally after flowing in two streams, one Northward and the other Southward. The doctrine of the Fathers was purely American in its spirit and effect, and in determining how the Union is to be reconstructed, it was necessary to go back to the days when it was originally organized, and in order to find a safe basis. The question suggested itself whether in doing the work assigned us, we should give omnipotence to American ideas. Our fathers had unbounded faith in man, and so should we in these days of greater progress and reform. We had come to measure men by what they are, and what they can do. They regard man as the handiwork of God, and that his rights were deducible from his moral relation to the Creator. There was a powerful faith in men of wisdom, but the common people that had in them only the organic elements which constitute relations more considered equally worthy. The rich held them as good to be worked, and refined people called them vulgar, but our fathers brought over with them a strong faith in all men, and their doctrine of personal rights was incorporated into the constitution of man. He believed that he came of the best and noblest race of Americans, and could adequately estimate his worth. Knowledge was not accounted of any value to the humble people, but men were considered to have the free use of every part of themselves were not only not dangerous, but were the very best kind of men, and when men have been made free, they are carried up into the highest state of duty. These ideas shaped our end as a people, giving our institutions a democratic character, and to our national life a spirit of liberty and broad sympathy with the common people. The necessity of the work that it should be the advocate of liberty to all men, but the contents of liberty must be defined, and it would no doubt be likely to err in our mission. The hand of God was in the history of the first settlers of South their part, telling one to go on and build upon the dignity of human labor, based upon principles which were to last for ages, which possessed the fairer part of the land, He said, go, regard not your enemies upon labor, and despised. The result of each section's toil was apparent. And now, as then, we come to the work to reconstruct, and in doing it were bound to carry out the doctrine of the Fathers, that made the North what it is. In the North there are millions of blacks in the South, no reconstruction would be necessary, but by making the interests of the North and South identical, we would avoid all troubles. The negro must be free as the white man. Liberty in the South mean what it is to the North, and the elements of liberty were the rights of person; the right of labor; the right of property; the right of contract; the right of civil protection, and the right of suffrage. He would not have succeeded to discuss these propositions in their order, taking radical ground in favor of the highest civil and political rights of every person for the blacks, as being essential and indispensable in correctly reconstructing the Union. He concluded by saying that he would be true to what was expected of the South, insisting that new governments should not give rise to inequalities for infractions of that law.

—The Philadelphia Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania has declared a dividend of twenty dollars per share, clear of taxes, payable on demand.

PITTSBURGH GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL,
THURSDAY, February 8, 1866.

Trade remains dull in all its various departments. We have no improvements to notice as regards the leading staples, the only change in the market is in what is required to supply the wants of the city trade. The market contains an ample supply of the leading articles. Navigation being closed to all points, no doubt affects trade very materially, although the weather continues unsettled. Buyers take hold very sparingly. The supply keeps pace with the demand. Bacon—We have nothing new to note in regard to this article. The demand was fair and sales were quick. The supply about keeps pace with the wants of the local trade. Butter—The demand is improving; particularly the better descriptions, for which holders are asking an advance. Common grades are dull at a fair supply. Prices have been uniform for some time, with a steady local demand. Flour—The market has undergone no change as regards prices or demand. The sales for some weeks have been confined mainly to supply the local trade, the principal inquiry being for the better grades. Groceries—The market was without alteration. Dealers purchase sparingly. The supply in the market is quite equal to the demand. Below will be found the sales that came under our notice:

FRUITS.—Are in fair demand at the following prices: Raisins—Sales Layer at $9 25@3 50 ? box; M. R. $6 00; Currants 15c ? lb. Cocoanuts 60@75c ? doz. Dates 20c ? lb. Figs 24@25c. Oranges $4 25@4 50; Prunes 22@25c ? lb. Lemons—Sales Palermo, $6@7 ? box. Pineapples 75c@$1 00. Pecans 22c. Pickles per 10, $1 50; per 100, $10 00. Apples $2 25@2 50 ? bbl.

FLOUR.—Was in moderate demand for local purposes. Prices have undergone no change. The sales and receipts were current days since would answer on the present occasion. Superfine, $9 50@10 00; extra, $10 00@10 50; family, $11 00@12 00; fancy, $12 00@13 00. The sales at these figures reach 320 barrels, in lots of 10 barrels at $9 50, 8 barrels at $9 75, 10 barrels at $10 00, 8 barrels at $10 50, 20 barrels at $11 00, 8 barrels at $11 50, 20 barrels at $12 00, 8 barrels at $12 50, 20 barrels at $13 00, 8 barrels at $13 50, 20 barrels at $14 00, 8 barrels at $14 50, 20 barrels at $15 00, 8 barrels at $15 50, 20 barrels at $16 00, 8 barrels at $16 50, 20 barrels at $17 00, 8 barrels at $17 50, 20 barrels at $18 00, 8 barrels at $18 50, 20 barrels at $19 00, 8 barrels at $19 50, 20 barrels at $20 00, 8 barrels at $20 50, 20 barrels at $21 00, 8 barrels at $21 50, 20 barrels at $22 00, 8 barrels at $22 50, 20 barrels at $23 00, 8 barrels at $23 50, 20 barrels at $24 00, 8 barrels at $24 50, 20 barrels at $25 00, 8 barrels at $25 50, 20 barrels at $26 00, 8 barrels at $26 50, 20 barrels at $27 00, 8 barrels at $27 50, 20 barrels at $28 00, 8 barrels at $28 50, 20 barrels at $29 00, 8 barrels at $29 50, 20 barrels at $30 00, 8 barrels at $30 50, 20 barrels at $31 00, 8 barrels at $31 50, 20 barrels at $32 00, 8 barrels at $32 50, 20 barrels at $33 00, 8 barrels at $33 50, 20 barrels at $34 00, 8 barrels at $34 50, 20 barrels at $35 00, 8 barrels at $35 50, 20 barrels at $36 00, 8 barrels at $36 50, 20 barrels at $37 00, 8 barrels at $37 50, 20 barrels at $38 00, 8 barrels at $38 50, 20 barrels at $39 00, 8 barrels at $39 50, 20 barrels at $40 00, 8 barrels at $40 50, 20 barrels at $41 00, 8 barrels at $41 50, 20 barrels at $42 00, 8 barrels at $42 50, 20 barrels at $43 00, 8 barrels at $43 50, 20 barrels at $44 00, 8 barrels at $44 50, 20 barrels at $45 00, 8 barrels at $45 50, 20 barrels at $46 00, 8 barrels at $46 50, 20 barrels at $47 00, 8 barrels at $47 50, 20 barrels at $48 00, 8 barrels at $48 50, 20 barrels at $49 00, 8 barrels at $49 50, 20 barrels at $50 00, 8 barrels at $50 50, 20 barrels at $51 00, 8 barrels at $51 50, 20 barrels at $52 00, 8 barrels at $52 50, 20 barrels at $53 00, 8 barrels at $53 50, 20 barrels at $54 00, 8 barrels at $54 50, 20 barrels at $55 00, 8 barrels at $55 50, 20 barrels at $56 00, 8 barrels at $56 50, 20 barrels at $57 00, 8 barrels at $57 50, 20 barrels at $58 00, 8 barrels at $58 50, 20 barrels at $59 00, 8 barrels at $59 50, 20 barrels at $60 00, 8 barrels at $60 50, 20 barrels at $